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Arab-Israeli Talks

Committee on Missing Nationals Formed

NC1407070694 Paris AFP in English 2350 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 14 (AFP)—Israelis and Palestinians have agreed to set up a special joint committee to exchange information on their missing nationals, the secretary of an Israeli-Palestinian liaison body said Wednesday [13 July].

General Zakarya Ba'lusha said the Palestinians have promised to work to locate the bodies of Israeli soldiers who went missing in Lebanon on condition Israel freed all Palestinians in prison in the Jewish state, including those serving long sentences. The Palestinians want them transferred to the newly-autonomous region of Jericho.

The committee agreed to meet "as soon as possible" to determine a course of action, Ba'lusha said.

Both sides began secret talks on the issue on Sunday [10 July] at Erez, which straddles Gaza and Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Information Ministers Meeting Begins in Cairo

NC1307151994 Cairo MENA in English 1315 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, July 13 (MENA)—Arab information ministers this morning started their 27th session under Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif leads Egypt's delegation to the session.

The meeting is attended by 14 ministers and seven permanent delegates to the Arab League.

The ministers discuss the recommendations adopted by the permanent committee for Arab information which concluded its activities yesterday.

Among these recommendations are means of standing up against the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism and consolidation of cultural and information action in the occupied Arab territories.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Bahraini minister stressed the necessity of ironing out Arab difference.

The Arab information ministers are responsible at their meeting for cementing joint Arab action and accelerating the use of modern technology in information field, he added. [passage omitted]

Addressing the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif welcomed the participating delegations. He also conveyed President Husni Mubarak's greetings and genuine wishes that this meeting and its resolutions would be a positive step upgrading Arab information.

He welcomed the Comoros which takes part in the Arab Information Ministers Council for the first time.

Al-Sharif called for forming an Arab council for consolidating Arab satellite channels.

Egyptian information which is part of Arab information will never hesitate to support Palestinian brothers while building their media institutions, he said.

Radio networks as well as television and satellite channels will remain in support of the Palestinian brothers, he added.

Egyptian media managed to succeed in dealing with two issues the first of which is environment maintenance. The second issue affects peace and developments march, he added.

Media played a major role in combating terrorism, he said. [passage omitted]

Information and Culture Minister in the Palestinian National Authority Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh expressed appreciation for the role played by Egypt and Safwat al-Sharif in support of the Palestinian issue.

The solution on Palestinian land will be completed within the framework of overall Arab peace on all tracks, he said.

He referred to President Mubarak's statement that peace will be achieved when the occupation ends in all Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese territories.

He expressed confidence that the Arab nation would continue to support Palestinian entity, saying that Palestine was and will remain part and parcel of Arab culture and civilisation. [passage omitted]

Taking the floor, Libyan Information Minister Ahmad Ibrahim called for a stand to confront Western media and foreign news agencies within the framework of an Arab national plan.

He stressed the necessity of pursuing a unified information strategy regarding the Lockerbie crisis on the basis of Arab League resolution.

Egypt's al-Sharif on Extremism, Terrorism

NC1307104994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has affirmed that Egypt has succeeded in confronting terrorism through public and frank dealings. It has also exposed and disrobed it of the garb of religion.

In a statement before the convention of the 27th round of the Arab Information Ministers' Council, which started its meetings at the Arab League Secretariat today,

al-Sharif said that Islam the religion, as well as its values, traditions, and principles, has nothing to do with terrorism.

He added: We support true Islam and confront wrong thinking through dialogue and correct religious thought. We have also confronted the criminal extremism that uses weapons through security and media measures and through various ideas that have been proposed.

The information minister said he believed that Egypt feels it has totally overcome this stage and that the country is quiet now. It also feels it has confronted the kind of terrorism that violates its own country's rights.

The information minister said the Egyptian experiment—whether in confronting criminal terrorism to expose it or in starting a dialogue that this Egyptian experiment manifested through the ideas of repentant extremists and terrorists who returned to the correct path or through discussing correct religious values on Egyptian radio and television and in newspapers—has become the exemplar of an aware political media campaign. It reflects the will of the people described by al-Sharif as religious and Muslim but who totally reject all kinds of terrorism and extremist thinking.

Asked about the Muslim Brotherhood grouping infiltrating the Lawyers' Association, Safwat al-Sharif said: In Egypt we have no Muslim Brotherhood grouping. We have political parties, which we support.

Asked about the Arab media alternative instead of direct satellite transmission from abroad, the information minister said the alternative is clear. We have a satellite channel of our own. He noted that virtually all the Arab countries have opened up their own television channels. He described these channels as pure Arab channels that can balance the many imported cultures.

Kuwaiti Minister on Palestinian Cause

NC1307212694 Paris AFP in English 2101 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, July 13 (AFP)—Kuwait will not play host to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, although it supports the Palestinian cause, Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah said here Wednesday [13 July].

Kuwait distinguished between "the Palestinian leadership and people," Shaykh Sa'ud said. He noted that Kuwait was providing 25 million dollars' worth of aid for Palestinian self-rule.

The PLO's relations with Kuwait soured when 'Arafat adopted a pro-Iraqi stance following Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

'Arafat visited Kuwait's Gulf ally Saudi Arabia at the weekend, holding talks with King Fahd.

Shaykh Sa'ud said Kuwait regarded Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who also supported Iraq during the Gulf crisis, as an "ally" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, but the emirate "is not interfering in Yemen's internal affairs."

Northern Yemeni leaders accused neighbouring Gulf countries of helping to arm the breakaway south during the civil war which ended with the capture of Aden last week.

The Red Cross meanwhile reported Wednesday that two Kuwaiti children held since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 had been repatriated.

A 10-year-old boy and his sister aged 12 were returned to their family via the al-'Abdalli border crossing, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement quoted by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA.

Since March 1991 the ICRC has supervised the return to Kuwait of 5,729 people who were held in Iraq, the ICRC said.

Kuwait accuses Iraq of still holding some 800 prisoners-of-war, including 680 Kuwaitis, but Baghdad insists it is holding none.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Jul

NC1307100794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Report Shows Injuries on Lawyer's Body
2. Al-Azhar Teachers Continue Strike
3. Women's Head Scarf Defended
4. Asyut Seminar Discusses National Unity
5. Writer Calls for Islamic Revival

REPORT SHOWS INJURIES ON LAWYER'S BODY

An approximately 400-word unattributed report on page 1 quotes Ahmad al-Khawajah, head of the Lawyers' Association, as saying that the initial report on the autopsy done on the body of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, who died while in police custody, shows a number of injuries on various parts of the body. Al-Khawajah added that the Public Prosecutor, who has showed him the report, will continue his investigations and inform the Lawyers Association of the results. Al-Khawajah promised to continue contacts with authorities to seek the release of lawyers detained without charges, now that the five lawyers who were locked up on charges of distributing a leaflet inciting fellow lawyers to demonstrate have been released.

AL-AZHAR TEACHERS CONTINUE STRIKE

On pages 1 and 3 is published a 2,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad on the ongoing strike by the al-Azhar teachers, which began on 2 July over pay rises. The teachers are demanding in increase in the allowance they get to grade their students examinations, equal to that paid to teachers in non-al-Azhar schools. The report notes that more than 7,000 teachers who had refused to mark the examinations were threatened with disciplinary action for negligence and disturbing public security, but the teachers persist in not going back to work until their demands are met. One of the demands of the teachers, according to the report, is that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi keep his hands off al-Azhar. Sidqi is the minister in charge of al-Azhar affairs. The report points out that the teachers' strike action has been well received inside al-Azhar, after al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq's negotiations with the prime minister reached a dead end. According to the report, Jad-al-Haqq is scheduled to meet with President Mubarak to contain the deteriorating situation. One of the teachers, 'Ali Laban from Tanta, is quoted that the absence of a strong syndicate for all al-Azhar teachers, in contrast to other teachers, is the reason for their deteriorating financial conditions.

WOMEN'S HEAD SCARF DEFENDED

An unattributed 1,400-word article in the "Women's Voice" feature on page 6 defends women's right to wear a head scarf, according to Islamic tradition. The report, obviously written by a woman who wears such scarves, comments on an article written by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan published in AL-AHRAM's 2 July issue, which criticized the head scarf. In his article, Ramadan said that among the serious challenges facing Egyptian women is the "state of intellectual and physical terrorism imposed on women by political Islam groups." Ramadan argued that the head scarf is not necessarily a sign of "virtue" but a "remnant of the Ottoman era." He noted that the head scarf has turned into a "veil of the mind," adding that women who wear head scarfs are lazier and more negligent in their work than Western women, who have nothing to hide behind but the "virtue of work." Refuting Ramadan's claims on the head scarf, the report notes that despite being an academician who claims to advocate "reason" and "logic", Ramadan's allegations lack any scientific proof, particularly in his claims that women with scarves are less intelligent than those who do not wear them. The report adds: "Everything that Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan has written are lies." The writer continues: "We have chosen of our own free will the Islamic cultural path with its philosophy, way of thinking, scientific fields, and rules of appearance in form and substance." The report points out that the Western woman who is not "hiding behind the scarf" and who claims virtue is the same one filing lawsuits in the U.S. Supreme Court over "acts of sexual harassment" at work and in public places. This is a real problem facing bare-headed working women. Concluding, the report notes that the real challenge facing Egyptian women is "emancipation" from despotism and oppression. The report adds: "The question is not the battle of the scarf, but the battle for cultural independence and to confront the ferocious onslaught waged by worn-out materialistic cultures hiding behind materialistic accomplishments that have started to be a threat to people's lives and environment."

ASYUT SEMINAR DISCUSSES NATIONAL UNITY

Part two of a report on a seminar held in an Asyut Church attended by Muslim and Coptic figures is published on page 11. The approximately 3,000-word report, written by Qutb al-'Arabi, summarizes the participants' views and the issues debated. The seminar was organized by the Popular Committee for National Unity. Al-'Arabi notes that, unlike the first session of the seminar, the discussion at the second session was frank and heated. Christian figures attending the seminar emphasized their loyalty to the homeland and adherence to national unity. They expressed their dissatisfaction with state restrictions on the construction of new churches or additions to existing ones. Under a law on the construction of churches passed in 1885, 10 conditions must be met before approval is granted to build a new church. In his speech, Muhsin Rizqallah, a priest called for equality for all citizens. He added: "Equality is not a favor given by one party to another, and which he could either withhold or grant, but a genuine right of every citizen. Efficiency must be the criterion for treatment; if it is applied, many of our complaints will disappear." Another speaker, Jamal As'ad, complained of "sectarian practices" by supporters of the Islamic groups against Copts. Another speaker, Emile 'Azab, pointed out that some government posts are forbidden to Christians.

For their part, the Muslim speakers at the seminar emphasized the Islamic shari'ah's tolerance toward non-Muslims. Some criticized what they see as the Copts' passive attitude and indifference to Egypt's political life. In this connection, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim quotes a Copt whom he asked for his vote as saying that Copts cannot vote for anyone unless the church specifically orders them to. He also noted that in his home town, al-Qusiyah, Christians tend to cluster together and live in exclusively Coptic neighborhoods, streets, or buildings, which does not give a good impression to Muslims. Almost all the Muslim speakers voiced their displeasure with the law restricting the construction of Christian religious facilities. The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

WRITER CALLS FOR ISLAMIC REVIVAL

Dr. Muhammad Muru, in a 500-word page 11 article titled "Globalism Or Culture Clash?", notes that the terms "globalism" and "culture clash" have been very popular in the Arab and world cultural lexicons following the collapse of Communism. He notes that the first term is commonly used in Third World countries,

while the second is often used in Western think tanks and research centers. Advocates of globalism argue that the world is heading toward a single international culture now that it has turned into a small "electronic village" with the tremendous advance in communications. Thus, these advocates say, any talk of exclusive cultural identities is an "illusion." Accordingly, Western cultural values must rule the world after having proved their worth. According to Dr. Samuel Huntington, a professor at Harvard University and a strong supporter of the cultural clash theory, the coming century will be dominated by clashes of cultures. He claims that the Islamic culture is the likely candidate to challenge Western culture; accordingly, Westerners must be prepared to confront the Muslims.

Muru notes that "globalism is a big deception" meant to "ultimately subjugate us to Western culture." He adds that Western culture has "dominated the world" through oppression and plunder, not by free will. He adds: "The awareness that the real and major conflict in the world has been and continues to be a cultural conflict underlines the need to preserve our cultural identity, or else our fate will be similar to that of the American Indians." He points out that there are a number of options available. "Either to be deceived by globalism and thus accept cultural extermination, or stand up to the Western challenge by emphasizing the exclusive nature of Islamic culture and creating some sort of cooperation among various cultures, or emphasize the exclusive Islamic cultural identity and be prepared for a long and tough struggle with Western culture."

Noting that Western culture itself does not accept cooperation and wants nothing short of "full submission to its cultural hegemony," Muru adds: "Thus, confrontation is our only choice." This, he adds, can be done in two ways: The first is by "stagnation," which could prove fruitful for some time but cannot last long. The second is the path of "Islamic renovation and rebirth," which means renewal from within the body of Islam while responding to the developments of the age. This, he concludes, is the only way for "confrontation, steadfastness, and victory in a world of clashing cultures."

Salafiyah Movement, Practices Profiled

NC1307114094 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 11 Jul 94 pp 28-29

[Report by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[Text] Traffic comes to a halt in [Cairo's] al-Haram Street after sunset prayers every Friday. Around 5,000 worshippers gather in the streets surrounding the al-Rahmah Mosque to listen to one of the leaders of the Salafiyah [Revanchist] Movement, particularly if he is a famous one like Shaykh Muhammad Hasan, leader of the Salafis in Suez. Occasionally the crowd becomes so thick that the area's residents are banned from leaving their homes until the lecture ends.

The Salafi stream's beginnings go back to the seventies, like other streams that came out from under the Muslim Brotherhood's cloak. It is not known just where the movement started. Was it Cairo, Alexandria, or al-Fayyum?

What is certain is that they began to formulate their own particular philosophy in Cairo and Alexandria at the same time, under the guidance of a group of dissidents who split from the Repudiation and Renunciation Group [movement accusing society and government of apostasy].

The Salafiyah Movement was weak at first and could not surface until the early eighties. To draw members away from the other groups, it announced that it was a group that did not differentiate among the various religious streams. It began to disseminate its ideas from various Cairo and Alexandria mosques.

Until recently, the movement had no significant influence because it consistently declared that it was not a jihad group, that it favored fighting vice with the faith of the heart and by word of mouth. It adhered to this position until it became a powerful group that infiltrated every Egyptian governorate.

Abu-Bakr al-Jaza'iri is considered the movement's godfather. Other people who influenced the movement are Bin-al-'Uthaymin [not further identified] and Bin-Baz, mufti of Saudi Arabia. Their writings and recorded speeches are circulated among the group's members. These books and cassettes are sent from Saudi Arabia and distributed free of charge. They carry the caption: "Religious trust. Must not be sold. Anyone is permitted to reproduce this material but must distribute it free of charge."

Many Salafi leaders reside in Saudi Arabia. The group organizes sojourns for its members in Saudi Arabia with the aim of enabling the largest possible number to make some money. There is a condition: They must not stay longer than two years. This is long enough to produce responsible members, that is, members able to assume responsibility before the group.

In Saudi Arabia these members generally work as managers of religious bookstores, selling books and audio and video cassettes of famous preachers' speeches.

The cassettes are brought to Cairo by those arriving from abroad. The group's activity has extended far and wide, such that it has opened several bookshops in Brazil, such as the al-'Ilm [scholarship] bookshop.

The Salafis say their group advocates a return to the days and ways of the prophet's companions, emulating these historical figures. They excuse Muslims who neglect religious duties out of ignorance rather than malice. They differ from other Islamist groups in refusing to accuse any Muslim of apostasy. They declare that they are still at the stage of conducting jihad by word of

mouth, because the time has not yet come for jihad through action; society is still ignorant.

The Salafis describe other Islamist groups as being beyond the pale of the Muslim community. They call the Muslim Brotherhood the "unjust party." They describe the al-Jihad Organization, al-Shawqiyun, and other groups who hurl accusations of apostasy at other Muslims as Kharijites [early Muslims who refused to support either of the two warring factions of fourth Caliph 'Ali Bin-Abu- Talib and fifth Caliph Mu'awiyah Bin-Abu-Sufyan].

Salafi-controlled mosques are open all day to give instruction in religious curricula based on the writings of [historical Muslim scholars] Ibn Taymiyah and Ibn al-Qayim and based also on Wahhabite [Muslim sect influential in Saudi Arabia] concepts.

Salafi philosophy is based on gradual, phased action: first preaching Islam, second providing arguments for the faith, third mobilizing the masses, and finally declaring jihad against the rulers.

The Salafiyah Movement regularly organizes big clothes exhibitions, especially children's clothing, which they sell at low prices. They also sell books disseminating Wahhabite ideas. The Salafis issue a Friday bulletin called NASHRAT AKHBAR AL-'ALAM AL-ISLAMI [Bulletin of the Islamic World's News] which reports the Muslims' news and jihad worldwide. It draws its material from Arab and foreign newspapers and relies especially on the Saudi newspaper AL-MUSLIMUN [The Muslims].

There are two other well-known magazines, SAWT AL-DA'WAH [The Organ of the Call to the Faith] and TALA'I' AL-DA'WAH AL-SALAFIYAH [The Vanguards of the Salafi Call].

The Salafis recognize only highly educated people as leaders, to compel others to respect and believe in them. Hence most of their leaders are architects or doctors. To keep a low profile they do not use the term "amir" to describe a leader. They merely use the word "shaykh" or "da'iyah" [preacher].

Salafi preachers are not bound to any permanent headquarters and are seeking to penetrate particular Upper Egypt areas after the security forces have uprooted the Islamic Group's members there. The Islamic Group has a scant presence in Upper Egypt now.

The al-Talibiyah area's al-Rahmah Mosque, the largest in the [Greater Cairo] neighborhood, is the movement's current main headquarters. It has been enlarged by the addition of two new floors. Posters at this mosque name the ulema, the books of which should not be read by the Salafiyah Movement members. These include Shaykh [Muhammad Mutawalli] al-Sha'rawi, [Muhammad] al-Ghazali, 'Abdallah Shihatah, 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, even the country's mufti Dr. Sayyid 'Ali Tantawi, and Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub. The Salafis describe these personalities as secularists!!

Strange fatwas are issued at this mosque. A preacher called Ahmad Fahmi has ruled that the headscarf is un-Islamic but the face veil is obligatory!!

He added that keeping a television set at home is an act of the devil. He said television is this era's devil.

The movement's members are trying to penetrate soft spots in Egyptian society. They encourage their followers to seek teaching posts in state schools to draw youngsters to their mosque-based support classes.

They offer a four-piece female Islamic outfit including a face veil for only 45 Egyptian pounds. They sell other clothes at subsidized prices. These clothes are imported from China via a fraternal Arab country!!

During the [fasting] month of Ramadan when the al-Rahmah Mosque remains open 24 hours a day, the movement issued a fatwa saying that zakah [alms] should be paid in the form of dried grapes, legumes, and vegetables. The fatwa said money is not acceptable as zakah.

Following the ebb in the influence of the al-Jihad Organization and the Islamic Group, the way was paved for the Salafiyah Movement. Formerly they were expelled from the mosques by these organizations. Al-Jihad members used to accuse the Salafis of working for the state security agencies while the Salafis used to describe them as Kharijites.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman would encourage his followers to join the Salafis with the aim of containing the movement.

Most terrorist leaders in Egypt originally graduated from the Salafiyah Movement, terrorists such as Nabil al-Magribi, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam, and others.

Sayyid Husayn is now advocating the Salafi stream's ideas in al- Fayym.

A Salafi group has also been formed by a former colonel, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Salam, who relies mainly on young members. He is also trying to attract the members of others religious groups the leaders of which have either been arrested or have gone into hiding.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians Expelled From Gaza; Border Reopens

'Prominent' Palestinians Leave

JN1307154594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Israel today expelled four prominent Palestinians, who they said had entered the Gaza Strip as part of the motorcade of President 'Arafat. The four are Mamduh

Nawfal, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Democratic Federation Party, FIDA, who is a former military officer of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Mustafa al-Liftawi, Abu-Firas; Jihad 'Ammarin; and Nihad al-Jayyusi.

Israel charges the four were behind the armed attack on the 1974 Tarshiha [Ma'alot] settlement, which left 18 Israelis dead and 70 others wounded.

In Gaza, an official Palestinian source has denied Israeli media reports that the four misled Israeli officials at time of the Rafah crossing. The source said their passports had been properly handed over at the Rafah crossing.

Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities today turned back 18 prominent Palestinians at the Allenby Bridge under the pretext that the authorities had no prior knowledge they were coming. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, member of the Executive Bureau of FIDA and the [Palestinian] Central Council, said these Israeli measures constitute a breach of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and that they were prompted by a political stand connected to the question of control over the crossings.

Israeli Security Pledges No PLO Entry

TA1307151194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip are searching for the fourth terrorist who illegally entered the Gaza Strip yesterday with Yasir 'Arafat in order to deport him to the Egyptian side of Rafah. A senior security source told our correspondent Moti Amir that until the man, Jihad 'Amrin, is located as 'Arafat had promised, Israel would not permit the entry of PLO officials into the autonomous areas, including the entry of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh this afternoon.

Our correspondent notes that this afternoon, Israel prevented the entrance of 18 members of 'Abd-Rabbuh's group who arrived at the Allenby Bridge on their way to Jericho. The Israeli representatives said that the border checkpoint had been closed to the members of 'Abd-Rabbuh's delegation.

At the end of last week, the security forces arrested 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masuhi, a member of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam organization, who was wanted by the authorities. The man attempted to cross into the Gaza Strip from Egypt, where he fled approximately 18 months ago.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that al-Masuhi, together with another two men, tried to infiltrate across the border near Rafah. Al-Masuhi was captured but his two companions apparently managed to reach the Gaza Strip. At Israel's request, the Palestinian police interrogated al-Masuhi's brother in order to reveal the identity of the man's two associates. The security forces are searching for them.

'Abd-Rabbuh Refused Entry

JN1307183194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian source has said that Israel has banned Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of information and culture in the Palestinian National Authority, from entering Gaza. 'Abd-Rabbuh arrived at the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing point this evening. But, the Israeli authorities did not allow him to enter, as the Palestinian source told our radio.

The source said that Israel had announced the closure of the borders to PLO officials in protest against the secret entrance of four Palestinian leaders to the Gaza Strip yesterday. [passage omitted]

Entry of Palestinians Resumes

TA1407045794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The fourth terrorist who illegally entered the Gaza Strip has crossed over into Egypt. Jihad 'Amrin left via the Rafah border crossing. An Israeli representative at the crossing point warned 'Amrin that the next time he enters illegally he'll face a stiff punishment. A Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that 'Amrin has tried to enter the Gaza Strip five times in the past few months.

The three other terrorists who entered illegally with Yasir 'Arafat's entourage on Tuesday [12 July] left earlier in the day. They reached Cairo last night, and told a news conference they decided to leave because they wanted the peace process to succeed and not to give those Israelis opposed to the process an excuse to delay implementation of the agreement. They also said they are among the leaders of the PLO, and Israel knew of their plans to come. And, in any case, the Cairo agreement permits all PLO leaders to automatically come to the autonomous regions for a three-month period.

After the fourth terrorist left, Israel permitted Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh to enter the Gaza Strip. His entry at the Rafah crossing point was held up most of yesterday due to the incident. The PLO's Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] is due to enter the Gaza Strip this morning.

Deportee Comments

NC1407090894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Three of four Palestinians deported by the Israeli authorities from Gaza left Cairo early this morning for Amman. The three are Mamduh Nawfal, Mustafa 'Isa, and Nahid al-Jayyusi.

One of the deportees, Mamduh Nawfal, said before departing that the Israeli occupation authorities' measure violates agreements and shows that their mentality

is inconsistent with the requirements of the peace process. The measure, he added, indicates a backward concept of the nature of the new phase in Palestinian-Israeli-Arab relations.

He went on: We did not enter Gaza secretly; the Israeli authorities knew in advance through the Liaison Committee that we were coming. Besides, the agreement gives all Palestinian leaders the right to visit the self-rule areas for three-month period, to be renewable.

He noted that their departure from the Palestinian National Authority territories confirms a genuine Palestinian desire to make the peace process a success and avoid all the pretexts of the Israeli leadership and extremists who are trying to disturb the atmosphere and block the implementation of the Cairo Accord.

'Abd-Rabbuh Notes 'Major Challenges' to Self-Rule

NC1307163494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian Information and Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that the Palestinian action is facing major challenges that must be confronted through Palestinian unity and Arab and international support.

He said the Palestinian self-rule is only the first step toward liberating the Palestinian territory that is still under occupation.

'Abd-Rabbuh said in an exclusive statement to MENA that the Palestinian self-rule now lacks integrated media establishments. These must be built from scratch as there are no radio, television, or press services, he said.

He thanked the Egyptian media for offering their available services to the Palestinian Government.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that there are no Palestinian rifts within the self-rule autonomy, but only different opinions, and people must have the right to freedom of expression without any restrictions.

He said preparations are now under way to hold elections for the first time in the self-rule area.

He said there is an actual budget for entrenching the self-rule, building its administrative institutions, and carrying out its full peaceful mission in the next stage. He noted that this will depend on Arab and international support and on Palestinian self-financing.

'Abd-Rabbuh said there are still problems with the Israelis concerning the self-rule provisions. He explained that Israel is procrastinating over the implementation of some of those provisions and refusing to implement others. But this can be solved through the negotiating channels, he said.

He said the Palestinian self-rule authority will continue to firmly establish itself in the region so that it can devote itself to the tasks of development, reinstating the Palestinian identity that the occupation tried to erase, and then taking measures to impose Palestinian sovereignty on the occupied territory.

Hamas Calls For New National Covenant

TA1307140194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jul 94 pp 1, 23

[Text] Gaza—the Autonomy, QUDS PRESS—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on Palestinian forces to agree on a national covenant, ratified by all Palestinian factions, in anticipation of the annulment of articles from the current national covenant, particularly those relating to the stance on Israel. The current national covenant represents the PLO's constitution.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, said yesterday to QUDS PRESS: "There must be a national covenant agreed upon by all Palestinian factions." He added: "Annulment of the PLO's covenant does not much interest the Palestinian street after the PLO leadership violated everything in the covenant."

Al-Zahhar called for the holding of elections in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian populated areas in the diaspora in order to choose a new national council. He noted that "the current council was not elected but was appointed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat."

Al-Zahhar said that "the pretext raised in the past that it is impossible to organize elections is a baseless pretext." He added that "the call to extend the current council's session should not be complied with."

In another development, al-Zahhar stressed that Hamas founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, sentenced to life by an Israeli court for establishing Hamas and its security and military apparatus, "will not accept any condition" in return for his release "even if this condition is that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin sign his name to a paper."

Deterrence, Protection Force Discussed in West Bank

LD1307191494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Palestinian sources in the West Bank city of Nablus said a proposal to set up a local deterrence and protection force is being discussed currently by various political forces in the city. The forces would undertake the protection of Palestinian institutions and property against outside aggression.

The sources said the force is expected to include about 100 elements representing various trends. The force's duties would be purely civilian.

The sources believe the reasons for this option is the increase in incidents of aggression against national and

private institutions in the city, the latest of which was the assault against the offices of the Arab establishment of insurance.

It is to be recalled that establishments and national and Islamist forces in Nablus have recently held several meetings during which all irresponsible means of dealing with problems between citizens and establishments were condemned. It also announced it was about to start working on a plan to guarantee the citizens and the city's security in general.

PFLP, DFLP Announce 'National Salvation Program'

JN1307154194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Jul 94 p 11

[Text] Damascus, SANA—Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Abu-Layla [Qays al-Samarra'i], member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], held a joint news conference at noon yesterday. The news conference was attended by PFLP and DFLP media officials, as well as several media and press correspondents.

At the outset of their news conference, Mustafa and Abu-Layla announced a national salvation program espoused by the joint PFLP- DFLP command. This program underscores the need for struggle for national liberation. It also underlines adherence to the national consensus and the intifadah option, as well as opposition to the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo accords.

The document further calls for safeguarding the unity of the Palestinian people, as well as their national identity. It also calls for resisting resettlement and displacement schemes, as well as all forms of political, economic, or cultural normalization with the Zionist enemy.

The document stresses the need for struggle to vindicate the Palestinian people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state. It also advocates confrontation of the oppressive and repressive practices being perpetrated against the Palestinians of the occupied Arab territories by the Israeli occupation authorities.

In this document, the PFLP and DFLP affirmed the need to create a broad-based front encompassing nationalist, democratic, and Islamic figures to safeguard the Palestinian people's unity and lead their struggle at this phase.

The document criticized the Gaza-Jericho accord, and the enormous concessions Yasir 'Arafat has made to Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people and to the detriment of their just cause.

Mustafa and Abu-Layla indicated that the PFLP and DFLP are struggling to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. Such a peace, they noted, should result in Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The two Palestinian officials also answered questions and queries posed on Palestinian developments.

It is to be recalled that this document was endorsed by the joint PFLP-DFLP command in mid-June.

Islamic Jihad To Participate in National Authority

TA1307142094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by 'Izzat Daraghmah]

[Text] Jerusalem—Shaykh Abu-'Abdallah Fayiz al-Aswad, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine—al-Aqsa Battalions, has declared that the movement will participate in the Palestinian National Authority.

In a statement to AL-QUDS, he said: We are official members of the PLO. We have three members in the Palestine National Council and one member in the PLO Central Council. Participation in the Authority has been proposed to us. Since we are part of the Palestinian house, we will take part in its construction and reorganization. We have also to participate more actively in building the Palestinian state.

Al-Aswad added: We believe that putting forward our position inside the Palestinian house is more beneficial and useful than being outside the house, and that it is better for us to participate and oppose rather than not participate and oppose. We have the right to adopt this philosophy and others have the right to oppose it.

With regard to the movement's position on the peace agreement, al-Aswad said: We have our own opinion regarding the peace process and the Oslo agreement. We expressed our reservation about this agreement openly in the Central Council and to the Palestinian leadership.

With regard to the movement's stance toward other Islamic movements, he said: We have no coordination whatsoever on the Oslo Agreement or the political process. We are not far from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], but we in the Jihad Movement stress that the PLO should be the Palestinian tent and house.

'Arafat Lauds King Hassan in Birthday Message

LD1307134394 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, July 13 (MAP)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat hailed the Moroccan sovereign's sustained backing to the struggle of the Palestinian people for its inalienable rights to freedom and establishment of an independent state.

In a congratulation message to King Hassan II on the occasion of his 65th birthday, the Palestinian leader said 'we are convinced that the brotherly and fruitful relations binding our two peoples will be developed and fostered further thanks to your solicitude'.

'The consolidation of bilateral ties is all the more necessary for the Palestinian people which started a period of construction and installation of its national institutions for the edification of our independent Palestinian state,' added the Palestinian leader.

Officials Comment on Orient House Developments

Negotiator Condemns Israeli Decision

TA1307150794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 6

[Article by Salih Abu-Hamad]

[Text] Gaza—'Abd-al-Fattah Hamid, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation at the multilateral talks, yesterday condemned Israel's recent decision to stop political activities relating to the self-rule authority from Orient House in Jerusalem. He accused the Israeli Government of placing one obstacle after another to the practical implementation of self-rule.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Hamid referred to the prevention of Palestinian workers from getting to their workplaces inside Israel, the refusal to release political prisoners, and the recent prevention of West Bank Palestinians from reaching Jericho. He considered this to be a contravention of the peace process in the region.

Hamid said that the Israeli decision to stop political activity from Orient House totally contradicts the resolutions of international legitimacy which consider East Jerusalem occupied Palestinian territory. He added that institutional work existed before the signing of the self-rule agreement and should continue afterward, because this is a natural right of the Palestinians.

Hamid called on the Israeli Government to change its policy in a way compatible with the need to build bridges of confidence between the two peoples aimed at achieving a lasting peace.

Al-Husayni Comments

JN1307160294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Confrontation has escalated between the Palestinians and Israelis over the future of the Palestinian institutions in the city of Jerusalem, in general, and the Orient House, in particular.

While Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal is issuing orders to stop the Orient House's political activities, Palestinian National Authority member Faysal al-Husayni says that these activities are continuing.

The Voice of Palestine contacted Faysal al-Husayni by telephone to learn about the latest developments on this issue:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] In fact, Israel is trying, by all means, to impose certain faits accomplis in Jerusalem. This makes the negotiating process useless. Some of these means, in addition to the large-scale construction [of settlements] and confiscation [of Palestinian property and houses] in Jerusalem, include them now targeting the institutions there. They are trying to kick these institutions out of the city of Jerusalem, or, at least, to take measures to curb these institutions' activities in Jerusalem. These actions conflict with the letter and spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem must continue their work. In fact, such work must be encouraged.

Concerning the Orient House, it is part of the peace process as a whole. It is not only part of one of the elements of this process; namely, the transitional stage. This is why the Orient House will continue to carry out its activities until we reach a comprehensive agreement on the final status, after which we may reconsider the role of the Orient House. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Supporter Calls For Municipal Elections

JN1307162794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who is close to the Islamic Jihad Movement in the Gaza Strip, has urged the Palestinian National Authority to immediately hold municipal elections in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In a statement published by AL-QUDS paper today, he called for the adoption of the popular vote to choose the people's representatives and to steer clear of an individual monopoly on decisionmaking.

PLO's Qaddumi Expected in Damascus 16 Jul

JN1407080694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 28

[Text] Amman—It has been learned that Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, will make an official visit to Damascus next Saturday, July 16. Reliable Palestinian sources said Qaddumi will be accompanied by two Fatah Central Committee members who ardently oppose negotiations and agreements with Israel.

The Palestinian sources declined to clarify the reason for the visit or say what issues the Syrian brothers will raise with the Palestinian delegation. The sources only said that an official Syrian invitation was sent to the Palestinian leaders to hold a round of talks, which is expected to touch on the latest developments in the Palestinian question.

New Jericho Force-17 Commander Appointed

TA1307151494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 23

["Exclusive" article by AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Ramallah—The Palestinian National Authority in Jericho has appointed Fathi Furayhat [Abu-Nasir] as Force-17 commander in the town.

It is worth noting that Force-17 is responsible for presidential security and protection of national institutions in the autonomous areas.

Algeria

Zerhouni on Violence, Terrorism, Foreign Threat

NC1407081294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Algerian Communication (Information) Minister Mohamed Benamar Zerhouni has affirmed his country's continued efforts to confront every aspect of the phenomenon of violence and terrorism. He noted that the Algerian Government refuses to deal in any way with groups that use violence.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM journalists published today, he says the interim government in Algeria is working to shorten the transitional period to achieve stability and organize free and legal elections for anyone who wants to participate.

He added that his county is not threatened from within, because its people are patriotic and do not want the state to collapse. He expressed his belief that the threat comes from abroad through international collusion with internal elements who harbor evil feelings for Algeria.

Zerhouni said: We reject all forms and kinds of violence, condemn religious extremism, and at the same time welcome anyone who repents, renounces extremist thinking, and joins us so that we can overcome Algeria's current political, economic, and social crisis.

He emphasized that in Algeria the terrorists are trying to use Islam as means to take power, but they are ignorant of Islamic shari'ah and seek legitimacy of another kind so as to attract all enemies of the Algerian revolution.

He noted that Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi had previously announced that the Algerian State and all its agencies refuse to have dealings with the groups and people who use violence to undermine the state or compromise the Algerian people's higher interests.

He said there is an Algerian move on the international level to brief all sides on the true situation and that the Algerian Government attaches special importance to economics.

The Algerian communication minister expressed his belief that the extremists mix up religion and the state because Islam deals with values, creeds, history, and ethics, while the state governs the people, land, and structural elements of the homeland.

Security Forces Kill Three 'Terrorists'

LD1307194294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The security services announced today that three terrorists were killed between 9-12 July in Algiers by the security forces who recovered some weapons.

Rome Embassy Denies Rumors of Revenge Attacks

LD1307142794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] APS has learned from the Algerian Embassy in Rome that rumors circulating about revenge attacks against resident Algerians in Italy after the horrific terrorist act in Djendjen port in Jijel Province are totally untrue. The same source said that no attacks or ugly mass retaliations against Algerians have occurred in any part of Italy.

France Renews Financial Aid Package

LD1207131194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Excerpts] In the cooperation field, France renewed its financial aid to Algeria for the year 1994. Finance minister Ahmed Benbitour and the [French] economy minister signed financial agreements in Paris yesterday stipulating a grant of financial aid to Algeria for the current year, estimated at six billion French francs allocated to finance some of the French exports to Algeria and to purchase grain. [passage omitted]

Within this framework they extended the agreement regarding giving 100 million French francs to set up joint companies between French and Algerian private companies till 31 December 1995. [passage omitted]

France is thus the first country to renew loans to Algeria for 1994 before starting bilateral talks on debts.

Egypt

Mubarak on 'Arafat, Terrorism, Ties With France

NC1207153594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Paris, 12 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed the need for the world community to support Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his new administration and to provide him with the necessary aid so that he can shoulder his responsibilities following the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

President Mubarak expressed his belief that for peace to be achieved, Israel must leave the occupied territories.

Mubarak said: 'Arafat was the chairman of the PLO, and now he is the president of the self-rule administration in the Palestinian land. This means a change of policy, and he has to meet the obligations dictated by the launching of a civilian authority, the self-rule authority.

President Mubarak was speaking to the third channel of the French television today.

The president stressed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad indeed wants peace, but this necessarily means the restoration of the Golan Heights. He noted that the

Israelis themselves realize this and know that peace with Syria means withdrawal from the Golan.

He said he has a strong friendship with President al-Asad and that he has known him for a long time, since they were together in the air force.

President Mubarak said there is a lack of trust between the Syrians and the Israelis, but added that he is not pessimistic about this.

He expressed his belief that peace will be achieved.

President Mubarak stated that Jordan has made big strides toward peace and that the Jordanians and Israelis will meet to demarcate the border and define the aspects of an agreement. He said he is also optimistic in this respect.

President Mubarak refused to identify the terrorists as Islamists or Islamic terrorism groups. He said there is terrorism among Christians and Jews as well.

He described those groups as criminals, and explained that terrorism began with the Afghan war, when large numbers of Egyptians and Algerians were fighting against the Soviet invasion. Perhaps some governments have used those people, who were calling themselves mujahidin, in return for money, Mubarak said. They returned to their countries in the Middle East to practice crime and terrorism.

President Mubarak said there are signs that terrorism is disappearing in the entire area, and the situation is no longer the same as when this phenomenon started.

He stressed that there is no connection between terrorism and a low standard of living and poverty, because the standard of living in Egypt has risen, and when it was low, there was no terrorism. He said terrorism also exists in rich countries. The president refused to name these countries. He said there is no connection between this phenomena and the standard of living. Poverty exists in all countries of the world—in France, the United States, Italy, and Europe. But the existence of poverty does not mean there should be terrorism. Terrorism is a criminal phenomena which appeared after the Afghanistan war.

Regarding the situation in Iraq and why some states are maintaining relations and concluding deals with Iraq despite the embargo, President Mubarak said that this the mark of the times in which we live. Every head of state or every country tries to increase its sales and raise the standard of its people.

He added: The embargo imposed on Iraq was the result of a mistake by President Saddam Husayn. But what is the guilt of the Iraqi people who are enduring many hardships? It is necessary to do something to end the people's suffering, particularly with regard to food, medicines, and vital needs. It is not logical for the fraternal Iraqi people to suffer because of an error by the Iraqi president. The embargo, however, will only be lifted with the approval of the international community.

President Mubarak noted that Egypt is making big efforts to mediate between Libya and the West to achieve a suitable solution to the Lockerbie crisis and end the Libyan people's hardships.

President Mubarak described the relations between Egypt and France as extremely strong. He said that good cooperation exists between the two countries in the various fields.

President Mubarak said that the reports that France will reassume its role and task in the peace process is not correct, because France has been involved in the process since the Camp David agreement and had not suspended its role in this regard. It is still playing a significant role to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Regarding France's role in Africa, and in Rwanda in particular, President Mubarak said that France fully understands the African psyche and the conditions in many African states. This is what led it to intervene in Rwanda to establish order and stability. He noted that he is aware that the French forces will withdraw from Rwanda in August.

On Czech Ties, Iraq, Other Issues

NC1307124894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Prague, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that no peace agreement can be reached between Syria and Israel without Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

President Mubarak called for the need to act to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the siege imposed on them, especially with regard to providing them with foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment.

In an interview today by Czech television, President Mubarak said that the most important problem Egypt is facing is population growth and how to decrease it. Egypt has achieved success in retrieving national soil, building the infrastructure, and reforming the economy.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, head of the Presidential Press Office, has stated that President Mubarak discussed Egyptian-Czech relations, the current position of the peace process, the future of the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement, and the issue of the boycott on Iraq.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im said President Mubarak noted that Egyptian-Czech relations go back a long way, to the twenties. They became manifest and tangible in the Czech arms deal with Egypt in 1955, through which Egypt received large amounts of air and land weapons. Many batches of Egyptian officers received their training in the former Czechoslovakia.

President Mubarak said bilateral economic cooperation is currently fairly humble but both sides have a strong desire to develop and increase this cooperation.

In his interview, President Mubarak discussed privatization in Egypt. He said the Egyptian experiment is different from the Czech Republic's. Every company and small business in the Czech Republic was owned by the state. This was not the case in Egypt, which had private businesses. As for agricultural land, the Czech Republic owned its agricultural land, while private individuals in Egypt own 98 percent of the agricultural land.

Asked about the establishment of the Palestinian state, President Mubarak said he did not wish to discuss this point now but preferred to leave things to take their natural course. He said that in 1978, during the Camp David Agreement, chances and opportunities for the Palestinians were much better than they are now.

The president gave the example of the number of Israeli settlements at that time; it did not exceed 48 small settlements, which could have been dismantled or moved. Now there are 180 large settlements in the territories.

On the Syrian stance, President Mubarak said that Syria is an independent sovereign state. It knows what it is doing. When it asks for our help, we will offer it, as we do with any other Arab state. President Mubarak reaffirmed that it is difficult to establish peace and an agreement between Syria and Israel without withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He pointed out that the Israelis have now realized this and many statements are emerging from Israel confirming this point.

Commenting on the embargo imposed on Iraq, the president reiterated that the Iraqi people are suffering from this embargo and from Saddam Husayn's mistakes. He said something must be done for the Iraqi people in terms of providing them with the necessary food supplies, medicine, medical equipment, and humanitarian needs.

Asked about the greatest problem facing Mubarak in Egypt, he said Egypt's greatest problem is population growth. He added that despite the current decrease in the birth rate, the problem still needs greater effort to reduce the birth rate so that the population increase will not consume economic development.

President Mubarak said that foremost among his successes was the restoration of all Egyptian territories and the establishment of a huge infrastructure, which started at square and reached a suitable standard, an infrastructure of the kind that no modern society seeking development and progress can do without.

He said the third success was economic reform, which was successful and helped considerably to eliminate inflation.

Asked about establishing an Arab common market modeled after the European market, the president said: We thought of that before the Europeans but they were ahead of us and achieved it, something we have been unable to do.

Mubarak Views National Dialogue's Recommendations

NC1307121594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that the state will give absolute attention and respect to the National Dialogue's recommendations. He also emphasized that the constitutional bodies will implement several recommendations that enjoyed a national consensus in the committees formed by the National Dialogue Congress.

In statements to AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published on Friday, Mubarak said: We are very eager to hold free, fair elections supervised by the judiciary. And that is what actually happened in the latest elections in Egypt.

The president noted that if there were some excesses in election processes, they were very limited, and some of them were committed by the parties themselves.

The president expressed satisfaction with the results of the National Dialogue, which he said was conducted in a rational way with everyone speaking freely and without pressure and all the participating parties expressing their views fully.

He said that participation, not isolation, seclusion, and solitude, is the correct way to enhance democracy. He added that he was pleased that the dialogue resulted in broad agreement among the various political forces that took part on the necessity to pursue the economic reform program while maintaining a measure of social justice to promote social cohesion. He said he was also pleased to see agreement among the participants on clearing up the election lists and changing several provisions of the Political Rights Law to ensure clean, indisputable elections.

Mubarak noted that one of the reasons for his satisfaction is that the dialogue among various political forces resulted in broad outlines fit to be the basis for a future vision that will boost Egypt's capability to cope with 21st Century challenges.

Mubarak pointed out that in all the world's democracies there are usually differences between the platforms of various political forces and parties. But, he remarked, not one country in the world can guarantee continued progress without the political forces' minimal agreement on issues concerning the country's higher interests.

He affirmed that the state will deal with the recommendations of the National Dialogue Congress with an open mind and heart because we regard opposition as a basic part of the democratic government system.

He said the state institutions will do their best to implement every recommendation in the state's interest within the limitations of suitable timing and circumstances.

President Mubarak added: We do not categorize the dialogue's results into political, economic, and social reforms because we consider all these as integrated elements in advancing and accomplishing the march of progress.

Musa on Syria-Israel Track, Lockerbie, Yemen

MM1307131894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Taqiyy-al-Din] With regard to the Syrian-Israeli track, it is said that Israel is in no rush to relinquish the Golan. What is your opinion?

[Musa] The situation will become much clearer with the reactivation of the Syrian-Israeli track. Egypt's view is that the Syrian-Israeli track is a major governing track, and if it is not reactivated, a comprehensive settlement will not be achieved and there will be a delay. It is in the interests of all to reactivate it on the basis of the Madrid foundations: the land-for-peace principle, which requires action. What U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and we ourselves are doing might help. I do not believe that the Syrian-Israeli track is in a crisis, on the grounds that the foundations for a settlement were agreed and direct negotiations launched, and there is direct Israeli-Syrian discussion.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What do you mean by saying there is direct discussion?

[Musa] In the negotiations and elsewhere, even though it is known that this has not been conducted at a high level. Numerous foundations have been realized for this track. Rabin's statements about his willingness to withdraw from the Golan never took place before, or his statements about removing the settlements or at least dealing with the settlements problem. They are new Israeli statements which never took place before and direct Israeli-Syrian discussion which never happened before. Without doubt there are still numerous difficulties, and the impression is that the situation on the Israeli-Syrian track inspires some optimism.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] So you are optimistic about the Israeli-Lebanese track?

[Musa] The Lebanese issue has no legal problem. There is no Israeli claim to Lebanese territory, not only under Israeli Labor Party rule, but under Likud rule as well. The question is linked with security agreements and water problems that are soluble and cannot lead to a confrontation. The Lebanese track's problems are limited to these points.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] But it is not possible to resolve the southern Lebanon issue before a result is reached on the Syrian-Israeli track.

[Musa] Logically, what you say is correct. But on the basis of the rapid changes we have seen throughout the world and the situations that happen suddenly and illogically, anything is possible. Logic tells us that the Lebanese-Israeli track should come after the Syrian-Israeli tracks, but our world is full of surprises.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] President Mubarak said following his meeting with President Mitterrand that he had discussed the embargo on Libya and ways of finding a way out of this problem. What is the way out?

[Musa] First of all, there is a way out for any problem. The Libyan problem is not moving on a dead-end road. It is a long road. It might be unpaved, but it is not a dead-end road!

[Taqiyy-al-Din] How can it not be a dead-end road, when the Western states want to have the Lockerbie and UTA suspects handed over and Libya is refusing to do so?

[Musa] Libya is not objecting to trying the suspects in Geneva or The Hague. So Libya has moved from a position of no trial, no handover to a position of agreeing to a trial. The distance has narrowed, even though it is still long. But two major moves have taken place in the Libyan position: the first is severing links with any support for terrorism and its organizations, and the second is that Libya has expressed its willingness for the suspects to stand trial. And there is a clear and specific major proposal that they stand trial in The Hague. So there is a kind of move, and we are against intensifying the sanctions against Libya. A move must be made, because it is important to us—to Egypt and the Arab peoples—that the suspects stand trial and an innocent or guilty verdict be announced. Other might be interested in more than that, namely that they should be punished in a certain way. What we are interested in is the trial only. We are, of course, proceeding in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab League, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement. And we support the Libyan proposal concerning conducting the trial in The Hague.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What do you expect in Yemen after what happened?

[Musa] We expect a new page to be opened and national reconciliation achieved in Yemen. They have to be cautious, because the situation in the region is bad, and any erroneous steps could lead to numerous problems. We hope that Yemeni will now move toward a better phase.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Relations in the Arab world are very bad at present, and Egypt is playing the role of intermediary among disputing states. What are your expectations at the Arab level?

[Musa] Indeed the situation is bad among the Arab states, and the Damascus declaration can be a means to mend the rift.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Has Egypt defeated the terrorist tide by the arrest of leaders of the terrorist fundamentalist movements?

[Musa] Yes, Egypt has defeated that tide. Nothing else was conceivable, because murdering people, terrorizing society, and disrupting citizens' life is acceptable to no one. They declared enmity toward society, which adheres to Islam, the religion of tolerance, not the narrow-minded views of those ignorant people. This is why that tide has been defeated and will continue to be defeated, because a society cannot be dealt with through intimidation, terror, or insult.

Musa on Mubarak Paris Visit, Ties With France

NC1207174594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Paris, 12 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described Egyptian-French relations as deep rooted and based on mutual interest. In a statement to the Arabic language al-Sharq radio in Paris, Musa said special relations exist between President Husni Mubarak and French President Francois Mitterrand. He noted that President Mubarak's talks with Mitterrand in Paris yesterday dealt with a large number of issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Bosnia and Rwanda, the Middle East peace process, and other important issues.

Regarding U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East on Sunday, Musa said Christopher has some keys with which he can help push matters on the Syrian-Israeli track, especially as he had made some progress during his previous tour.

Musa affirmed that there is no stagnation in the peace process. Progress must take place on the Syrian-Israeli track, because this is the key. He explained that the Syrians want peace within the framework of the Madrid formula and they are making a completely fair demand, which is for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines. No peace can be established without Israeli withdrawal. The Israelis are aware that neither Syria nor Egypt will accept partial withdrawal.

Answering a question about the Damascus Declaration, Musa said that the meetings of the eight states are now proceeding better and more regularly. There are more serious discussions and much better coordination of positions among the Declaration states. We can serve the Arab situation better by constant cooperation, coordination, and solidarity among the Declaration states, he said.

Asked what the Damascus Declaration has achieved on the economic and military levels, Musa said nothing specific has been achieved yet. But cooperation and coordination are better now, and this might lead to specific and clear results in the future to serve the Damascus Declaration states and the Arab world in general.

He affirmed in this regard the need for continued serious Arab action and good intentions, as they exist now.

Musa explained that President Mubarak's visit to the Czech Republic and Slovakia will open the way to the establishment of vibrant relations between Egypt and the East European countries that are implementing economic reform programs similar to Egypt's. He affirmed that there is much that can be done within the framework of economic cooperation between Egypt and these countries.

Answering a question about a Mubarak visit to Damascus soon, Musa said there is no specific date for such a visit. However, there are consultations between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad on international issues, and there is continuous coordination between the prime ministers of the two countries.

Asked whether he expects a new leaf to be turned on Yemen, Musa said there is a broad scope for work in this direction. The matter is not one of incidents ending today in order to turn a new leaf and decide on new relations. There is much that needs to be done to achieve a better situation. This must take place by healing the rift.

Information Minister Discusses Mubarak Paris Trip

NC1307053894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned from Paris last night after accompanying President Husni Mubarak during his visit to France.

The information minister said the visit to France was successful and covered every political and economic domain. He stressed that the visit enjoyed broad media coverage in view of President Mubarak's position and Egypt's international weight.

In an arrival statement, the information minister said that while the visit was short, it achieved 90 percent of its objectives. He said the Egyptian ministers and their French counterparts discussed every issue of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Investments

NC1207111094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, has met and discussed bilateral ties with U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Edward Walker and the acting head of the aid agency [not further identified].

Dr. al-Janzuri explained the status of U.S. investments in Egypt and the importance of boosting them in the two countries' common interest. The two sides reviewed the positive ties between Egypt and financial institutions in light of Egypt's achievements in infrastructure, overhauling production facilities, fiscal and monetary structural reforms, and the privatization program.

Writer Criticizes Iranian Use of Fatwas

NC1207133394

[Editorial Report] Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic on 9 July publishes on pages 1 and 8, under "The Political Stand" rubric, an approximately 2000-word article by Ibrahim Sa'dah entitled "Idiers Play Mufti." The article comments on a recent fatwa issued in Iran by Iranian President [title as published] 'Ali Khamene'i banning men from wearing neckties because they violate Islamic shari'ah. Sa'dah argues: "Some people might think—and I agree with them—that this news does not merit publication due to its triviality. However, I believe the very triviality of it merits comment."

Sa'dah then lists in detail similar fatwas issued by extremist leaders in Egypt, encompassing such issues as clothing styles for men and women, hairstyles, television programs, movies, education, sports, etc. He continues: "The result is shocking in every sense of the word." He then proceeds to describe in detail the changes that have taken place in Egyptian public life as a result of the fatwas, which have been quite well-received by "sizable sectors of society." The major change has been in schools and the educational system, such as eliminating physical education, thus destroying students' potential and talent. He notes that Minister of Education Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has tried to limit extremist influence on schools and education by liberating the system, but in this way "he has created a generation that only wants to label everything as blasphemous and to prohibit beauty and nobility in their lives." The same applies to the mosques, where anyone can actually deliver a Friday sermon and talk about anything and everything, be they qualified or not. This is largely the fault of former ministers of education, he says.

But the situation in Iran is different because fatwas there "are not issued by the amirs of ignorance from among the average citizens, but are imposed by the government on the people with steel and fire," Sa'dah says, lamenting: "The Islamic revolution has presented the world with a very bad and distorted image of Islam and depicted the Islamic people as a mirror image of what the Iranian ayatollahs are doing and calling for." Terrorism and Islam have become synonymous, he says.

Sa'dah accuses the ayatollahs in Iran of being responsible for terrorism in Algiers, conditions in Sudan, the troubles in Lebanon, and the deterioration in Yemen, saying they have nourished long-standing hatreds of the Arabs. He gives as an example the eight-year war they fought against Iraq. "They hope to control and impose hegemony on Yemen to turn its territory into a big camp for harboring and training terrorists and a springboard from which they can spread terrorism and implement their plans inside neighboring Arab countries, and in distant ones too," he says of the ayatollahs. Sa'dah then elaborates on the failure of the Islamic regime in Iran by describing the terrible conditions there.

Sa'dah then returns to the original topic of discussion, the banning of neckties in Iran, and wonders about the audacity of the Iranian ayatollahs in issuing a fatwa of this kind. "Is this an issue for the head of state to concern himself with?" he asks. Sa'dah says that he can find only one explanation for this phenomenon. He says: "I have noticed that Israelis, both citizens and leaders, do not wear ties except on very rare occasions." This has been the case, he notes, ever since the state of Israel was created. "If we realize that relations between Iran and Israel were, and still are, strong," Sa'dah concludes, "why should we rule out that President Khamene'i is, with this decision, trying to imitate the Israelis in their dress, just as he imitates their goals and expansion at the expense of Arab land?"

Israeli Paper Remarks Said To Show 'Hostility'

NC1307120194

[Editorial Report] The weekly Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic, on pages 14-15 of its 11 July edition, carries an approximately 2,000-word article by Ibrahim 'Isa denouncing a report on Egyptians published by an Israeli newspaper, YEDI'OT AHARONOT, on 10 June.

In the YEDI'OT AHARONOT report, an Israeli tourist returning from a tour in Egypt disparages Egyptians. Describing her tour in Egypt, she is quoted as saying: "Those Arabs jumped into my Honda, picked up the luggage for a five-shekel tip, and kissed my fingers." She is cited adding: The Egyptian people "were born to be servants like the Negroes of America."

The Egyptian writer strongly rejects the Israeli paper's article as a true expression of "an overwhelming Israeli desire to show flagrant and mean hostility toward Egypt." He argues that Israel does not want peace, despite "this daily chatter about peace" and that a "psychological barrier" between the Israelis and Egyptians is "real and genuine."

Addressing the Israelis, the author suggests: If the clash with tanks and aircraft has ended, the cultural conflict, the strongest and most comprehensive, will continue between us.

He adds: "If the conflict now is cultural, this Egyptian nation has the right to wake up to lead itself and its culture in a genuine and radical confrontation against all your racism that is eating your hearts."

Fugitive 'Terrorist' in al-Alfi Case Captured

NC1307144294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry has stated that the state security intelligence service apprehended fugitive terrorist Usamah Rashad 'Abd-al-'Aziz during its continuing efforts to arrest the fugitive terrorists. Terrorist 'Abd-al-'Aziz had already been indicted in case 10/94,

military crime, which involved the attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. He is also accused of assassinating the primary witness in the attempt to assassinate the prime minister, assassinating a dissident member of the organization, detonating an explosive device in the al-Jazirah Youth Center, and possessing weapons, ammunition, and explosives. The verdict in the case is expected on 14 July 1994.

The aforementioned terrorist also participated with al-Jihad Organization members in planning and preparing the attempt to assassinate the interior minister.

Terrorist Usamah Muhammad Rashad also took part in collecting and preparing explosives that were hidden in the organization's den in the Kafr al-Manfa area, the pyramids police district. He also prepared the organizational dens and tunnels that the organization prepared under a piece of land in Markaz Bilbays in al-Sharqiyah Governorate which were to be used as a hideout for the members and for stockpiling explosives and detaining hostages.

The security source added that arrested terrorist Usamah Muhammad Rashad 'Abd-al-'Aziz also took part in all the terrorist plans prepared by the organization under the leadership of the two slain terrorists Nazih Nudhi Rashid and 'Adil 'Awad Siyam.

Two locally made explosives, two fuses, and forged papers and documents were seized from terrorist 'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Killed in Clash With Police

NC1407075394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—An Islamic Group terrorist was killed today in the village of al-Sanbaq in Asyut after an exchange of fire with security forces storming a terrorist hideout.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that the State Security Intelligence Department received information that some terrorist elements were hiding in a house owned by Abu-Talib Muhammad 'Uthman in the village of al-Sanbaq in Asyut. The prosecutor's office gave its permission to storm the hideout and conduct a search of the area, in which central security and other forces took part. The source added that the security forces were fired upon while surrounding the house. The forces returned fire, killing one person, while another escaped into nearby fields.

Senior security officials from Asyut went to the scene of the incident. The name of the escaped terrorist is 'Atif Muhammad Sabri. At the house, an Egyptian-made 7.62-mm rifle made in 1976, four automatic rifle magazines, a Port Said submachine gun magazine, 10 9-mm bullets, two locally made explosive devices each weighing 500 grams, a valid identity card, [words indistinct], and some organizational documents containing instructions from the group's military wing were found. Policemen are besieging the area to look for the fugitive terrorist.

The terrorist killed in the operation was a member of the Islamic Group's military wing. He belongs to the group headed by leading terrorist Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir and is in charge of arranging contacts among leading figures and delivering messages among them. He was previously arrested in 1992. The prosecutor's office has been asked to investigate.

Morocco

Country To Help Palestinians Develop Tourism

LD1207145194 Rabat MAP in English 1307 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, July 12 (MAP)—Morocco is ready to help Palestinians set up tourism structures, Moroccan Tourism Minister Serge Berdugo told member of the PLO Executive Committee Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

At a meeting held lately here, the two officials reviewed tourism cooperation prospects in the autonomous regions of Gaza and Ariha [Jericho]. The two sides agreed to organize contacts between Palestinian and Moroccan professionals and to send teachers and professionals to train Palestinians.

The Moroccan minister asked Abu-Mazin to convey to Palestinian Tourism Minister Ilyas Frayj an official invitation to visit Morocco.

CCDH Starts Work on Listing Prisoners for Release

LD1307133794 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, July 13 (MAP)—The Moroccan Human Rights Consultative Council 'CCDH' started Tuesday [12 July] scrutiny in the issue of 'political prisoners' in compliance of the instructions given by King Hassan II in the speech he delivered last Friday. On the occasion of the youth day marking his 65th birthday, the sovereign asked the CCDH to meet to 'definitively clarify the (human rights) situation and put an end to the awkward predicament at home on the one hand and to the libellous criticism of malevolent persons or enemies abroad on the other.'

Talking at the opening session, Mohamed Mikou, chairman of the Council, said King Hassan II has honored the Council by entrusting it with this issue and asking it to examine all the lists (of political prisoners) with a view to making to the sovereign proposals within the following 48 hours. Mikou added that the king had stated 'I will be glad to receive from the Council a list with the largest possible number of names. You must not however forget that there is for all of us an exception:

anyone who does not recognize the Moroccan identity of the Sahara cannot by anyway have his name on the list'.

The CCDH chairman pointed out that the Council's various working groups held intensive activities in the period between two sessions, implemented its programs within the deadlines and examined all the issues it was submitted. He also announced that the Council will ask for the sovereign's agreement so that a follow up commission meets next September to study the Labor Code project. This ninth session, he said, will be exclusively devoted to the issue submitted by King Hassan II.

Press on CCDH's Task

LD1207133094 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, Jul.12 (MAP)—The Moroccan press echoed this Tuesday [12 July] the announcement by King Hassan II of a pardon for persons reported to be incarcerated for 'political reasons'. The newspapers were unanimous to stress the duty of the Moroccan Human Rights Consultative Council 'CCDH' which was entrusted by the sovereign with compiling the lists of persons that can benefit from the amnesty.

'L'OPINION' daily in French of the Istiqlal Party (PI-nationalist/opposition) said the CCDH members should shoulder their 'historic' responsibility with far-sightedness and generosity to enable the largest possible number of persons benefit from the measure and allow Morocco turn the page of political detainees once for all and usher in a new era of the state of law and of human rights respect.

The CCDH, which has to submit to the sovereign the list within 48 hours, should respect the spirit of the royal speech of July 8 and should not limit the range of this historic measure, the daily said, urging the council to contribute to ending 'this dossier which triggered libellous campaigns against our country'. Once the problem is settled, Morocco will resolutely move forward on the path to consecrate democratic practice and consolidate human rights, 'L'OPINION' said.

For 'AL MAGHRIB' daily of the National Rally of Independents (RNI/liberal), the royal decision ushers in a new era and opens new promising horizons for Morocco. The decisions to shelve once for all the dossier of 'political detainees' and to form a government of national union by the end of the year will contribute to the fostering of national union 'through a formula proper to the Moroccan genius', the daily added.

The general amnesty decided by King Hassan II confirms Morocco's will to go ahead on the path towards the consolidation of human rights respect, the RNI daily stressed.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Replaces Interior, Communications Ministers

EA1307222194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, today issued Republican decrees providing for a limited cabinet reshuffle. The following is the text of the statement, issued from the presidency of the Republic:

In exercise of the provisions of Article 3-B of the 3d constitutional decree of 1989, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has issued Republican decrees under which: 1. Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr is appointed minister of interior; 2. Dr. Kabosho Kuku is appointed minister of communications and tourism and; 3. Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn is appointed minister for affairs of the presidency of the Republic.

Development Projects for Southern State Listed

EA0907141094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Within the framework of the country's celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the revolution, Juba yesterday witnessed a tumultuous mass procession, which political and popular organizations in the state of Bahr al-Jabal participated in, along with token units from the Armed Forces and the unified police. Addressing the procession, Ustadhah Agnes Lokudu, governor of the state of Bahr al-Jabal, said that the revolution was fought for peace and unity. She reviewed the just distribution of wealth, power, and economic and social reform under the National Salvation Revolution. She reaffirmed that the state of Bahr al-Jabal has been completely freed from rebellion, and this means that responsibility for the state's government to now concentrate efforts on development has increased. She said the next stage of the program is to concentrate on rehabilitating those sections of the infrastructure destroyed by the war, by pursuing a policy of self-reliance. She pointed out that the state government will strengthen the agricultural sector and provide production inputs. She declared that the state of Bahr al-Jabal will witness a rise in all areas, since 2,000 tons of fuel had been provided to generate electric power in Juba, and 300 tons of gasoline were also provided for peace and development projects. She pointed out that a new radio transmitter station has been imported, operating with a strength of 15 kilowatts. She said that the government is currently busy restoring the telephone communication network in the town, and that work is underway to rehabilitate hospitals and health facilities in the state. She called on the citizens to work for peace. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Iraq, Palestinian Ties

LD1407022694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, said there is no purpose in holding an Arab summit unless the Iraqi regime adheres to UN Security Council resolutions especially Resolution 833 in connection with the recognition of the State of Kuwait.

In a interview to be published in AL-HAWADITH magazine next Friday [15 July], Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that Kuwait's dispute is with the current Iraqi regime and that Kuwait has nothing against the Iraqi people.

Regarding the issue of the POW's, the first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister said that this issue is Kuwait's main preoccupation. He added that the state of Kuwait handed files including the names of all the POW's to the Arab League and the International Red Cross. He pointed out that the Iraqi regime has not agreed, until now, to the entry of the International Red Cross to Iraq to deal with this issue.

On the issue of the three UAE islands occupied by Iran, Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad expressed his conviction that this problem will be easily solved if Iran agrees to discuss the issue of the three islands as a whole with the state of the United Arab Emirates.

Regarding peace in the Middle East and whether the Palestinian state could be considered as existing in this deficient and truncated form, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the state of Kuwait was the first to welcome the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as a first step on the course to a comprehensive, permanent, and just peaceful solution. He said that the doors to peace will never be locked again and peace will be long term. In this regard, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister recalled the supportive stance Kuwait has taken toward the Palestinian cause from the beginning; he added that Kuwait will pursue and maintain this stance, but he stressed that Kuwait's dispute with the PLO and its lack of confidence in the PLO did not mean that Kuwait is against the Palestinian people. He stressed the $25 million aid package provided by Kuwait to bolster development efforts in Gaza and Jericho.

Assembly Debates Arms Purchases From Russia

MM1307160094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p5

[Report by Faris al-Salman: "Kuwaiti National Assembly Debates the Question of Purchasing Arms From Russia"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—Yesterday's session of the Kuwaiti National Assembly witnessed a wide debate which began with a question by Deputy Nasir al-Sani' about the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry's purchase of arms from Russia through a third party. Al-Sani' said: "We have no disagreement regarding the purchase of arms from friendly states, especially Russia, but we want our money to go to the pocket of the Russian Government, not a third party."

Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah explained that the purchase of arms was discussed w[illegible] the cabinet and it was agreed that the Defense Mi[illegible] was responsible for technical matters and the F[illegible]ce Ministry for financial matters. He pointed out th[illegible]ere was a provision which stipulated that "any ag[illegible]ment between Kuwait and Russia would prohibit the existence of agents or brokers."

In reply to Dr. al-Sani's question, Shaykh al-Hamud also said that "no Defense Ministry representative has met with anyone other than Russian officers in the presence of the Russian ambassador."

As al-Sani' rose to complete what he was saying, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdan requested a point of order and said: "We fear that increased discussion of this matter could be detrimental to the state's interests."

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that "Kuwait's interest is above everything else.... I would prefer us not to go on discussing this matter." [passage omitted]

Oman

UAE Minister Arrives With Zayid Message

JN1307150394 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Muscat today on a short visit to Oman. He is carrying a message for His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from his brother UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was received upon arrival by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, the UAE charge d'affaires in the Sultanate, and a number of the Foreign Ministry's senior officials.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Denies South Yemenis in Kingdom

LD1307203094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud this afternoon attended

the 50th ceremony of graduates from the King Fahd police academy. The event was under his patronage. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Royal Highness, there have been reports that south Yemenis have asked for asylum in the Kingdom. What is the position, your Royal Highness, on Saudis accepting Yemenis?

[Al Sa'ud] There is not anyone on Saudi territory. [passage omitted][end recording]

Deputy Defense Minister Visits Missile Base

LD1307130294 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Riyadh, July 13, SPA—Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, the deputy minister of defence and aviation and inspector general, visited here yesterday the strategic missiles base-511.

On arrival at the site, he was welcomed by a number of senior officers. Speaking on the occasion, Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman highlighted the big strides made by the Saudi Armed Forces, the National Guard and the public security forces.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman was accompanied by Prince 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Paper Sees 'Grim' Future After Fall of Aden

MM1307130094 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 9 Jul 94 pp1, 36

[Editorial: "What Comes After the Fall of South Yemen"]

[Text] With the fall of South Yemen to the northerners, the aim of imposing unity by force was achieved. By all standards, that was a military victory but the future seems to be grim. That is because surrender [of the south] may be justified in the current circumstances but, because of the bloodshed that has occurred on southern territory, stability may not be guaranteed because often capitals which fall by force soon resume resistance. Perhaps Yemen's demographic structure, the strange combination of conflicting forces, their varying degrees of power in and out of government, and the emergence of the case of South Yemen, will result in a realignment of the tribal and partisan centers of power on different foundations.

If the fall of the south has resulted in the elimination of the authority which had declared the secession, the plan for dialogue with the southern partners merely becomes an assembling of leaderships under the authority of the north, which means that it would be a one-sided dialogue or that the victor would dictate his terms and the names of individuals who should represent the south, at least temporarily—people who would be tempted with power until the fait accompli is consolidated and subsequent aims fulfilled.

Let us assume that the south fell because the southerners' support for al-Bid and his team was weak and that southern forces did fight alongside the northerners in support of unity and in revenge against the old authority.

Such assumptions could be attributed to differences between leaders and differences over distribution of power, but many possibilities lie ahead, including, for instance, the following:

1. Annexation of the south under the fait accompli of military power, eliminating the possibility of equitable dialogue or even representation that would denote goodwill, seeing unity as the aim that would erase the consequences and severity of the war.

2. Affirmation that only the north can make decisions about the foundations for the future and about the state's policies, which could mean that the southern parties would be dissolved and denied any constitutional representation.

3. The north might regard the south as a spoil of war and, therefore, give all privileges exclusively to the northern authorities and tear apart all the supporters of the defeated southern authorities by various repressive and illegitimate means.

Such developments would kill the idea of democracy. Martial law might be declared for both parts on security grounds for a long or a short period. The political gains of the war, however, do not equal the material and human losses. That will give rise to other questions about the future of all Yemen and whether the Yemeni economy would be able to compensate the losses and meet the needs of the Yemeni people who have paid a high price for that war and its motives.

We reaffirm that the Kingdom's statement which had sought to spare the Yemeni people the specter of war was based on the obvious premise that feeding hatred, imposing influence by force, and applying an iron fist policy on the southerners would produce dire consequences. The solution still lies in dialogue and mutual satisfaction without arms and without forcible influence.

Paper Decries Sanaa Actions, Demands Referendum

JN1307105394 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Jul 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Referendum Once Again]

[Text] Ever since the beginning of the random shelling of Aden and the subsequent death of dozens of women and children, this newspaper has been demanding a fair referendum on unity among the Yemeni people in both parts of Yemen because such a referendum is the only way out of the war. Now that Aden has fallen into the hands of the northerners, what was proposed in the past

has become an urgent requirement. The capture of Aden has not ended the fierce battles between the two sides, demonstrating that the battle is not yet over. The northerners will face hard and fierce resistance. This has been going on in Aden's streets and alleys since it was penetrated. The streets are full of corpses and its walls are smeared with blood. Looting has spread in the town and the situation is aggravating by the absence of food and medicine.

What Aden witnessed was not a triumph drawing the applause of the Aden people. It was an occupation that the southerners reject and fiercely resist. This confirms that Sanaa's calculations have been completely wrong. Its soldiers have not been able to effect a triumphant entry in the city as they had dreamed. They forced themselves into a land that was burning under their feet, indicating a long and drawn out resistance, especially after the formation of a southern government in exile whose basic task is to continue the fight to wrench Aden from Sanaa's clutches.

While it is true that the unity which was announced between the two parts of Yemen was based on the principle of referendum, the current conditions require a return to the referendum to affirm the unity between the two parts under international sponsorship. The escalation of the resistance in Aden means, among other things, that the Yemeni people reject unity in part and parcel. All consultations currently taking place in Aden, after it has been conquered, to form a new national government will not pacify the resistance. This government's task, namely, realizing internal national reconciliation, will be very difficult in light of the northern aggression against Aden and other southern cities and the ruin and destruction wrought in the south. Repairing the damage of the war will not be an easy task, as Sanaa imagines. It would have done better if it had taken into consideration the expected resounding reactions to the killing of hundreds of innocent people in this lost battle, instead of escalating the aggression and fanning its flames.

The southern resistance is a direct result of Sanaa's tragic errors, whose price must be paid. Building unity on the skulls of southern Yemenis is irrational, and therefore the issue of the referendum must be raised again as the most civilized means, not only to put an end to the bloodshed in Aden but to settle the Yemeni crisis which has ended by war. Without resorting to this ideal method, battles in Yemen will continue indefinitely and everyone will discover in a practical way that this is one of the losing wars in which there is no victor and vanquished. They will discover that military confrontation did not achieve any of their political gains, that the fall of Aden does not constitute a true victory for a unity built on the skulls of the southerners and on the remains of their homes and conquered will.

Yemen

Salih Urges 'New Chapter' in Ties With Neighbors

JN1107185394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today visited the brother officers and enlisted personnel affiliated with the Central Security Forces, the al-'Amaliqah Forces, the 2d Armored Brigade, and the Republican Guards Military Police, as well as the citizens, that were imprisoned by the rebellious renegades and secessionists after they started the sedition in the homeland to tear its unity apart.

The brother leader president was welcomed upon arrival by brother Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, commander of the Central Security Forces; Central Security War Staff Officer Colonel 'Abd-al-Malik al- Tayyib; and Colonel Sharaf al-Mushiki, commander of the Central Security Battalion deployed in Aden.

The brother leader president spoke to the officers, noncommissioned officers, and citizens who were set free by the forces vindicating unity and legitimacy. He congratulated them on their safety. He also commended the patriotism and endurance that marked their conduct throughout their imprisonment, during which they suffered various kinds of torture and oppression at the hands of the secessionist gang. He also praised the efforts they made to defend unity and democracy, as well as the manner in which they met challenges during the performance of their national tasks.

The brother president addressed them, saying: You have laid the cornerstone, the foundation stone, in the edifice of unity. You have risked your lives to confront the elements that sought to destroy the homeland and tear it apart. He praised the heroic steadfastness and the militant spirit demonstrated by our Armed Forces, the security forces, and the Yemeni people's masses in their daring defense of the Yemeni people's dearest gain; namely, unity, and also in their valiant confrontation of the gang of rebellion and secession.

In his remarks to them, the brother president said: Now that our country has coped with this painful ordeal, it has to address the tasks of a new phase, which requires the concerted efforts of all sons of the homeland and all political figures and forces without exception. We must remove the effects of this ordeal and rebuild a new Yemen through a national reconciliation and dialogue within the context of the Constitution, and also through broadening the scope of popular participation in the performance of national duties to promote the local government experience and strengthen the march of democracy, which is based on a multiparty system, as well as respect for basic liberties and human rights. Such an endeavor must also seek to enhance national unity.

The brother president added: This will be the real embodiment of the Yemeni will and wisdom. We must forget now about what has happened in the recent past, we must look forward to the future, and we must build that future with open hearts and minds, and in good faith. We must open a new chapter of tolerance with all people in our homeland, and also in our relations with brothers and neighbors. One of our top priorities will be the building of a new Yemen that will achieve the wellbeing and prosperity of all Yemenis, and that will make positive and effective contributions, along with its brothers and neighbors, toward promoting the security, stability, and wellbeing of the region.

The brother president asserted that Yemeni unity will be a factor of wellbeing and security for our people, brothers, neighbors, and all countries of the region.

Committee Appointed To Normalize Aden Situation

NC1307203194 Paris AFP in English 1939 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 13 (AFP)—The Yemeni government Wednesday [13 July] appointed a ministerial committee to normalise the situation in Aden, where public services have been brought to a standstill and offices stripped bare in an orgy of looting since the city fell to northern troops last week.

The official news agency SABA said the committee, chaired by acting Prime Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, would have to "find urgent solutions to restore security and public services in Aden, particularly water and electricity."

The city was pillaged after northern troops captured it last Thursday, ending two months of civil war between forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and those of breakaway southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The government was due to continue its meeting Thursday—the first to be held in Aden since the war ended. SABA did not specify what measures would be taken to stabilise the situation in Aden.

The ministerial committee includes Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ansi, secretary-general of the fundamentalist Al-Islah party, which has seen its fortunes lifted by the northern victory.

Al-Islah is in the ruling coalition in Sanaa, along with Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) and the southern-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP). Most of the YSP leaders fled to neighbouring countries after the southern collapse.

In a statement issued after a three-day congress in Sanaa some 300 Yemeni Moslem leaders called for an amendment to the constitution to make Islamic Sharia law "the sole source of legislation" in the country.

They said the penal code and state policy in education and information should be "inspired by Sharia."

Moslem leaders strongly criticised the YSP at the "victory congress."

"The Socialists must not be allowed to return to power," said Shaykh Ahmad Baharamz, from the southern province of Abyan.

Sources close to Al-Islah, which has strong support in the tribal north, said the fundamentalist party was against any establishment of a "government of national unity" and favoured sidelining the YSP.

Talks to set up such a government have been in progress since the war ended.

The sources said Al-Islah officials, including ideologist Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid Zandani, were also against any return of former South Yemen president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, ousted in 1986. He has been mooted as a possible successor to al-Bid as vice-president.

A senior Yemeni official told AFP an amendment to the constitution such as that proposed by the Moslem leaders would require a two-thirds majority in parliament.

Before such a vote "partial elections must be organised to appoint new deputies to replace those YSP lawmakers who were killed in the war or who went into exile," he said, requesting anonymity.

The YSP had 61 deputies out of 301 in Yemen's pre-war parliament.

YSP Leaders To Hold Consultations in Sanaa

MM1307114094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Rafiq al-Ma'luf and Faysal Makram: "Washington Advises al-'Attas of National Reconciliation"]

[Excerpts] Washington, London, Aden, Sanaa—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen," held talks in Washington yesterday with a number of officials in President Bill Clinton's administration. A State Department official has said that Toni Verstanding, deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, met with al-'Attas yesterday at his request and that she stressed to him the need to achieve national reconciliation in Yemen, to tackle the humanitarian problems resulting from the war, and to work to achieve progress in the political dialogue among the various Yemeni groups. [passage omitted]

In Sanaa, in the framework of the dialogue between Yemeni Socialist Party leaders and the government on the one hand and the dialogue among themselves on the other, Fadl Muhsin, member of the party's Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, returned to the Yemeni capital yesterday from the southern governorate of Lahij. Fadl Muhsin met with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih together with Mahmud Abu-Sab'ah, member of the House of Representatives and the Central Committee,

and figures from Yafi' Directorate in Lahij Governorate. They declared during the meeting "their position supportive of Yemeni unity and democracy." 'Ali Salih asked Fadl Muhsin to resume his duties at the ministry. Fadl Muhsin's return comes while Sanaa is preparing to make consultations with Socialist Party leaders inside the country in the light of current developments after the war. AL-HAYAH has learned that a number of Socialist Party leaders will begin consultations in Sanaa within the next few days in order to secure a formula to reorganize conditions in the party and elect a new leadership through a general party conference. Figures who are expected to attend the conference include Yahya al-Shami and 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Maradi, members of the Political Bureau; 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam and Mahmud Abu-Sab'ah, members of the Central Committee; in addition to other Central Committee members and party leaders in the various governorates. [passage omitted]

'Fundamentalists' Seen Wielding Influence in Aden

NC1407091494 Paris AFP in English 0238 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by Souleiman Nimer]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 14 (AFP)—The victory of northern forces in the Yemeni civil war has boosted the fortunes of Islamic fundamentalists, who fought alongside President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's troops and now have a strong presence in Aden, former bastion of the southern Socialist regime.

Fundamentalists belonging to the Islamic Jihad group and the powerful Al-Islah party say they are now "helping to maintain order" in Aden, the key port city in the south seized by Salih's forces on Thursday [14 July].

Post-war looting has stripped Aden bare and brought public services to a standstill.

Northern troops enforcing the Islamic ban on alcohol destroyed stocks of wine, whisky and vodka when they arrived in Aden.

Murad 'Abdu al-Hubayshi is typical of the armed Islamic militants who have taken control of the densely populated 'Aydarus district, transforming it into their headquarters.

Before the city was besieged by northern forces al-Hubayshi was languishing in the Al-Mansurah prison in northern Aden along with six other Islamic Jihad militants. They were jailed for the bombing of two hotels in Aden which killed two people on December 29, 1992.

"We were freed Thursday morning, after the government forces entered Aden," al-Hubayshi said, adding that he was "happy about the victory over the Communists."

Muhammad Mahmud Ramzi, a member of Al-Islah in Aden, said northern troops had put him in charge of guarding public buildings and distributing food and water to war victims.

He and other Islamic militants were also responsible for "controlling police stations" in Aden, he said.

Al-Islah is in the ruling coalition in Sanaa, along with Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) and the southern-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP). Most of the YSP leaders fled to neighbouring countries after the southern collapse.

A southern deputy in Sanaa said Monday the pillaging of Aden was largely a result of a fatwa, or religious decree, issued several weeks earlier. An Al-Islah leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami, decreed that the war against the "YSP atheists" was "in line with Shari'ah (Islamic law)."

Some 300 Yemeni Moslem leaders called for an amendment to the constitution to make Islamic Shari'ah law "the sole source of legislation" in the country Wednesday after a three-day congress in Sanaa.

They said the penal code and state policy in education and information should be "inspired by Shari'ah."

Moslem leaders strongly criticised the YSP at the congress.

"The Socialists must not be allowed to return to power," said Shaykh Ahmad Baharamz, from the southern province of Abyan.

The YSP had 61 deputies out of 301 in Yemen's pre-war parliament.

In Aden a member of Islamic Jihad, Abu-'Anis, said "several dozen" Jihad members and "hundreds" of Al-Islah militants "took part in the fighting, on all fronts."

He said he fought to "liberate" Aden alongside Shaykh Tariq Bin-'Abdallah al-Fadli, allegedly the mastermind in the 1992 Aden bombings.

Both men were wounded near the Khormaksar district.

"Tariq, who was more seriously wounded, was sent to hospital in Sanaa, then transferred to Amman," Abu-'Anis said.

Abu-'Anis also boasted of having fought in Afghanistan and met Usamah Bin-Ladin, a rich Saudi businessman living in Sudan who is a well-known financial backer of the Afghanistan "veterans" and other Islamic militant groups.

Al-Islah supported the Yemenis who helped the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan, Abu-'Anis said.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid Zindani, Al-Islah's chief ideologue, "was a key player at the start of the Yemen war, encouraging many Al-Islah militants to fight against the atheist Communist troops," Abu-'Anis added.

Kuwait Recognition, Embargo Linkage Criticized

JN1307120494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] Kuwait, 6 July—The accursed Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, declared on Wednesday [6 July] that the embargo on Baghdad will continue as long as Iraq does not recognize "the border with Kuwait."

The accursed Ekeus, who arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad, said that member states of the UN Security Council will not lessen the economic sanctions on Iraq unless it recognizes "Kuwait's independence and sovereignty within its boundaries." He added: My impression is that all the Security Council members without exception strongly insist that "the recognition of Kuwait and its boundaries" must be settled with the Iraqis in a satisfactory manner.

He continued that the Iraqis do not consider the border issue a problem and that they see the need to settle it one way or another without clarifying how to achieve that settlement.

According to the official IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the accursed Ekeus paid a three-day visit to Baghdad during which he discussed political and technical issues with Iraqi officials.

The visit of the accursed Ekeus takes place before the Security Council meeting which is expected to convene in the middle of this month to review the sanctions imposed on Iraq since August 1990. These sanctions are reviewed every six months to determine if there is a possibility of lifting the UN embargo.

Saudi 'Brutal' Torture of Prisoners Condemned

JN0107175294 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 2

["Hot Issues" column by Yasin Khadr Nashmi: "Human Rights and the Saudi Regime's Brutality"]

[Text] The Saudi regime has been one of the most primitive, brutal, and rough regimes in the way it treats human beings, whether Arabs or others.

There have been many well-known stories about how this regime gets rid of its opponents by cutting their throats with a sword or throwing them from an airplane into the Rub' al-Khali desert to be devoured by the burning sands. Thus, they will be left to experience a most savage death that represents the apex of savagery and brutality, eschewed even by the most primitive and backward prehistoric nations.

The great people of Iraq have throughout history stood as glorious beacon that laid the foundations of noble human values and issued legislation to protect human rights. This has been designed to release man's creative potential and create prospects for a decent life. The great Iraqi people, therefore, have represented a great complex to the regimes of injustice, oppression, and blackmail, starting with the major imperialist regimes and ending with the primitive stooges, represented by the Al Sa'ud regime and other regimes that exhibit singular agentry, primitivism, and savagery.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons for the conspiratorial, instigative role played by the Al Sa'ud regime in the 30-state aggression against Iraq. Iraq's heroic stand revealed the fragility of this regime and the hateful, unjust foundations on which it is standing in its collusion with the traitors to the nation and the plunderers of its wealth.

News reports say today that nine Iraqi detainees in the camps of Al Sa'ud were killed by the most brutal and savage methods. This confirms beyond a shadow of doubt that the human rights slogans raised by the imperialists are false slogans aimed at protecting the agent regimes and covering up their crimes. These slogans are also meant to enable those regimes to liquidate all the noble, well-meaning symbols that advocate freedom, dignity, and justice. Otherwise, how can we explain this regime's stripping the detainees and tying them to the bodies of hot cars under the sun and burning them when they raised slogans of religion and human rights?

How can we justify the kidnapping of hundreds of Iraqis and their detention in concentration camps that would not be tolerated by the Nazis themselves, while human rights organizations stand idle before this brutal, barbaric conduct?

The Al Sa'ud regime has outdone the most arbitrary regimes in its methods of oppression, despotism, and physical torture. The Saudi regime has betrayed the nation's causes and devoted all its energies and resources to plotting against the Arab countries that seek to promote their progress and future. Moreover, this regime is a stigma for civilized humanity. Therefore, all well-intentioned nations and human rights organizations that uphold man's dignity and humanity should denounce and condemn the arbitrary practices of this regime and devote all their resources toward releasing the Iraqi prisoners whose only fault is that they fought for freedom, justice, and decent life.

U.S. 'Collusion' on Rights Violations Seen

JN0207060994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "Partnership in Plunder and Violations"]

[Text] The Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Najd and Hejaz has denounced and condemned Washington's silence over the ruling Saudi family's violations of human rights. It called the U.S. silence collusion and a form of actual participation in dominating the country, plundering its wealth, and disposing of its resources. What the committee said in its statement two days ago is only a small part of what the

masses of the Arabian Peninsula have already said. They are against the injustice, corruption, and violations of rights taking place in Riyadh and other Saudi cities. It is common knowledge to everyone inside and outside the Arab region that the injustice of that dark kingdom has gone beyond all limits and has begun to spread like cancer, not only on the domestic, but also on the regional level.

The deviation, domination, tyranny, suppression of liberties, and plotting against all promising bright spots in the region are not isolated incidents, nor are they indications of a code of behavior that is intended to produce effects only on the political level in the current phase. These acts are actually intended to produce effects on the intellectual, military, and economic levels as well.

Saudi Arabia, under the domination of the family of Fahd, the prodigal son of the oil monopolies, is no more than a satellite following the orders of these companies and carrying out their criminal plans. If the deployment of the invasion forces in Hafr al-Batin in order to strike at Iraq and weaken it was a glaring example of that dirty, conspiratorial role, the continuous support for the secessionists in southern Sudan, the adoption of the separatists in Yemen, and the payment of bribes at several international forums to maintain the pressure of the siege on Iraq are other clear examples of the violations of human rights taking place before our own eyes every day. No doubt, a servile lackey like Fahd, who uses the entire weight of the kingdom's oil wealth to plot against and weaken Arab security by relying on a foreign presence, will not hesitate for one moment to practice such vile acts. Domination and tyranny will remain the only language Saudi Arabia understands in dealing with its citizens.

No doubt also, that regime's crimes and violation and suppression of rights and liberties are taking place within the sight and hearing of the United States and through its silence, support, and partnership. The last concern of the United States is the question of human rights, especially in the Arabian Peninsula, so long as that regime serves its aims and ambitions and guarantees its continuous plun dering of Arab oil wealth.

Washington cannot even dream of finding anyone like this small hireling to offer it the land, wealth, and Saudi Arabia's great weight in the service of its criminal aims. So, it is not strange for Washington to remain dead silent over the violations of human rights by this unfair family, and to actually cover up these violations.

The U.S. Administration is the partner of the Al Sa'ud rulers in not only plundering and depleting the oil wealth, but also in their violations of human rights and the rights of the entire people in Najd and Hejaz.

U.S. Airspace Violations Protested to UN

JN1007122594 Baghdad INA in English 0810 GMT 10 Jul 94

[Text] New York, July 10, INA—Iraq has protested to the United Nations over breaching of American warplanes of Iraqi airspace for provocation and surveillance.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations addressed a memorandum to the U.N. secretary general saying American planes carried out during the second half of last June 754 hostile air sorties over various parts of Iraq in addition to several reconnaissance flights.

'Hypocrites' Working Against Country Rebuked

JN1307102694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 6 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Lies and Hypocrisy"]

[Text] The first principle in religion is knowledge of religion, and full knowledge of religion is belief in it, and full belief in it is denial of doubts about it. These gems apply to everything noble. The Iraqi revolution is noble by its objectives and great by what it has achieved and strives to achieve. However, there are those who do not yet know the reality of this revolution. This cannot be due to lack of clarity. For can there be anything clearer than the two fierce wars which the revolution has fought against all the evils in this world?

So, it is willful misunderstanding and sometimes wishful thinking, backed by persistent action, that the revolution will depart from its reality and shun its purposes.

Some people's greatest wish is that we abandon our high hopes as a historic movement and turn inward like some of the Third World regimes. This would achieve the aim of the big enemies who want to see an Iraq that does not aspire to higher ideals, fight for justice, and seek for its citizens a life of virtue and prosperity. God forbid, some people want our state to be a dead body mangled by wolves.

These people have chosen the meanest ways, namely, lies coupled with false concern. They conceal the problems facing the citizens, and in fact portray them as gains. They lie to God, the leadership, the people, and to themselves.

They are hypocrites who elevate those who do not deserve exaltation and strike at the ones who deserve such exaltation. They misrepresent the truth, embellish the bad and dirty, and denigrate the devout and competent ones. I wonder: Does conspiracy come out openly and declare itself loudly, or does it infiltrate quietly wearing the garb of godliness and piety? Please answer me, and God shall reward the diligent.

Paper Hails RCC Decree on Nightclubs, Alcohol

JN1307101894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Decree of Resolution and Firm Intention"]

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] decree closing entertainment places, dance halls, and night clubs and canceling the licenses of all types of bars is in harmony with leader President Saddam Husayn's directive to the ninth cabinet meeting under his chairmanship and his statement that the government will study corruption cases one by one and adopt firm decisions on tackling such cases, especially when they become a manifestation leading youth to corruption and activities conflicting with our good values and morals.

The decree is the right remedy for these hotbeds. They have begun to have a negative effect on society. They have begun to disturb the social balance at a time when Iraq is facing a big conspiracy against its national resources, headed by the youth, who should be in the forefront of the confrontation of this conspiracy and in the mobilization of all national resources for the sake of rebuilding the homeland and entrenching our good values. The decree bars the doors that attracted youth to theft and crime as a revenue source for free spending and shameless red nights.

The leader's recent speech was full of advice on proper upbringing, which affirms the determination of the revolution and its leader to proceed on the path of comprehensive change that will contain corruption in every part of society and ensure that an atmosphere of social stability prospers with collective action by the majority of our people. This decree is in the interest of the majority. It will open the way for another decree tackling all negative manifestations in society.

No doubt, the new decree interprets the determination of the revolution and the party to entrench the Islamic and Arab principles and values on which Iraqi society is founded; principles and values that characterize our people and make up their human heritage. Furthermore, the decree is a factor of balance and stability in society vis-a-vis the hostile forces' attempts to undermine these values and principles following the defeat of their military aggression and the chapters of treachery and treason and the continuing blockade.

Finally, it is a fair and balanced decree which is very effective in dealing with foreign-instigated corruption and preventing enemy penetration of our domestic front through corruption, following the defeat of all types of plotting against Iraq and its people. It is a mobilization of the Iraqi ranks of faith in the face of the ranks of infidelity and foreign corruption.

Blessed are the steps of the revolution and brilliant are the actions of the leader in uprooting the evil that obstructs the people's progress toward bolstering their determined struggle on the new path of benevolence.

Central Bank To Begin Issuing Government Bonds

JN0807060994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Jul 94 p 4

[Excerpt] The Iraqi Central Bank will begin issuing government bonds in three denominations effective 16 July 1994. Announcing this, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir said the bonds, which will mature in five years with an annual interest rate of 20 percent, will be in 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 dinar denominations. Thus, they have a higher yield compared to the interest given by commercial banks on savings and fixed deposits, he added.

The minister pointed out that the guidelines that have been issued in this regard permit dealing in these bonds in the Baghdad Stock Exchange at the price that is determined by the forces of supply and demand. He said that the Central Bank will announce the selling and buying prices of these bonds daily. The minister noted that these bonds are an excellent security for mortgage, bank facilities, and other transactions, and are also transferable.

The minister explained that the government bonds will be on sale in the Central Bank in Baghdad and its branches in Basrah and Mosul. [passage omitted]

Assembly Discusses Draft Law on Property Tax

JN1007110794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 94

[Text] The National Assembly held an emergency session under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to discuss a number of draft laws and resolutions relating to economic and social life.

At the outset of the session, Sultan al-Shawi, chairman of the Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee, read to the Assembly the opinion of his committee and the Financial Affairs and Planning Committee of the order by Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, to discuss an amendment to the Property Tax Law No. 162 of 1959 and the Council of Ministers' recommendations in this regard.

He said each of the two committees discussed separately the draft law and all related proposals and [word indistinct]. Each of the committees presented its view on the law after listening to a number of specialists in finance, taxes, and commerce. The two committees determined that the reasons for the draft amendment agree with realities.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent reported that the National Assembly members will tomorrow complete their discussions of the draft law and its proposed provisions, as well as the amendments. These provisions fall within six principal clauses.

Allocation of Land Along River Reported

JN0807061294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Dhi Qar—In implementation of the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, it has been decided to distribute 228,000 donums of agricultural lands on the banks of Umm al-Ma'arik River within the boundaries of Dhi Qar Governorate.

Dhi Qar Governor Salah 'Abbud Mahmud said that these lands will be allocated to peasants, farmers, and tribesmen in the al-Habayish and Suq al-Shuyukh Districts. He added that five committees have been formed to conclude contracts with the beneficiaries to exploit these lands for the cultivation of strategic crops. He pointed out that efforts are under way to ensure the water supply so that these lands can be exploited during the coming agricultural season. Some 348 agricultural water pumps have also been distributed among peasants and farmers, he concluded.

Government Pays Annuities to Retirees in Kurdistan

JN0807074394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] Nineveh—Branches of the al-Rashid Bank in the northern region have paid out a sum of 50 million dinars to over 100,000 citizens in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region as annuities that were due for payment for several months this year.

Hisham Nasrat al-Daghistani, representative of the bank management in the northern region, said the bank was able, through the cooperation of the annuities departments in the northern governorates, to pay out annuities for the first five months of 1994 as scheduled. Al-Daghistani explained that 46,000 retirees in Irbil Governorate received 18 million dinars in annuities from the bank's branches in Makhmur and Altun Kupri; 16,000 retirees in Dahuk Governorate received 10,894,000 dinars from the bank's branch in Faidah; 40,000 retirees in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate received annuities from the First June branch, and others received their annuities in al-Ta'mim Governorate.

Al-Daghistani noted that despite the bloody fighting going on between the followers of the agent Kurdish parties in the region and their treasonous alliance with the aggressive imperialist and Zionist forces, which are full of spite against our country, leader struggler Saddam Husayn's paternal care for our people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has continued in all humanitarian fields, whether by ensuring food rations or paying out annuities and social security allowances to families.

In statements to an AL-THAWRAH correspondent who visited the al-Rashid Bank branches of Faidah, Makhmur, and Karkuk, beneficiaries have expressed their profound affection and loyalty for leader President Saddam Husayn for his paternal care for our noble people in Iraqi Kurdistan.

RCC Decree Punishes Antiquities Trespassers

JN1307105694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] AL-THAWRAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] issued Decree No. 81 on 5 July 1994 considering as trespasser anyone who cultivates, lives on, or erects a building or any structure on sites considered antiquity places and lands, and causes any historical or material damage to them.

The decree stipulates that the trespasser will be punished by being imprisoned for a period of not less than one year and being forced to pay a compensation equivalent to double the value of the material or moral damage he causes. This compensation shall be obtained as one cash payment from his funds or through a public auction of his properties.

The RCC decree also stipulates that the local administrations and municipalities shall bring criminal charges and remove the trespassing at the expense of the trespasser. The court shall call the representative of the Antiquities Department to appear before it. The report submitted by this representative and the testimony he makes before the court shall be considered as sufficient evidence for conviction and sentencing.

Rabin Comments on Peace With Jordan, Security

TA1307181894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that although peace is knocking at our door and the Arab countries are ready to try the way of peace, the danger of war has still not passed and the intention to grievously harm Israel is still seething beneath the surface. Israel's existence depends on a group of people who put the country's needs ahead of theirs, Yitzhaq Rabin said, at a ceremony to mark the conclusion of an Infantry Corps officers course.

Mr. Rabin says that reaching peace is the realization of a dream but warned his audience against any delusions. A strong and modern army will remain a paramount need long after peace is established and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will still constitute our principal anchor in a volatile world even if and when peace is achieved. We must always be prepared, alert, and continually more powerful, the prime minister stressed. Mr. Rabin pointed out that while Israel will continue to extend its hand to peace it will always keep its eyes peeled for danger.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that commenting on the talks with Jordan, Prime Minister Rabin said that a breakthrough should not be expected within a week, or even within a month or two. I understand, the prime minister said, that King Husayn wants to see progress before agreeing to hold a public meeting with me.

'Text' of Rabin Speech at IDF Graduation Ceremony

TA1307183994 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1710 GMT 13 Jul 94

["Text" of a speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a graduation ceremony for IDF officers in Mitzpe Ramon on 13 July—issued by the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] Deputy Chief of Staff, OC [Officer Commanding] Ground Forces Command, OC Officers' School, family members, cadets, commanders, instructors:

Even though peace is knocking on our door, even though the Arab countries have lately expressed their readiness to try the way of peace—the danger of war has yet to pass. The intention to eliminate the State of Israel still beats in many hostile hearts.

The existence of the State of Israel rests on a marvelous company of people. For these people, the needs of the state take precedence over their own needs. These people have given up lives of comfort, have volunteered, have contributed, and have risked their lives. These people are enthusiastic, devoted, professional, and steeped in faith. They know that the fate of the State of Israel rests on their shoulders. Cadets and commanders, you are these people, you and your comrades: IDF soldiers and their commanders. There are none like you. With people like you, children of previous generations, we have gone to war. Now, with you, we go toward peace.

Although peace is the realization of a dream, we can not be deceived by illusions. Long after peace is established, if and when it comes, we will have a supreme need for a strong army, a modern army, an army of the year 2000—whose men and weapons will dispel any malicious intentions.

If and when there is peace, even if and when the walls of animosity are removed and the borders are opened, the IDF will always have an central anchor in our life-experience in the State of Israel—the important, vital and unmatched focus upon which peace will rest. Only a strong army can bring peace. Only a strong army can preserve the peace.

Commanders, cadets, I must tell you: In this topsy-turvy world, it is forbidden to cease—for even one moment—from the readiness and the preparations, the awareness and the strengthening process. Thus, we will always continue to extend a hand to peace, but our eyes will be open to discern dangers, should they occur. Our fate is in your hands and in those of your comrades—and we trust in you.

Cadets, commanders, family members: This is an opportunity to thank the IDF and you for a year of effort and success in operations and activities relating to our on-going security. This was a year in which you again proved that you have no competitor in terms of daring, operational wisdom, exemplary action—in on-going security operations, in the war on terror.

In the name of the government, in the name of citizens of the State of Israel, thank you for the effort and for the successful operations.

Cadets: You are sons to a glorious family of which it is an honor to be a part. You are joining the daring and chosen ranks, and the entire Jewish people shakes your hands.

Thank you to the families as well. Thank you to the fathers, thank you to the mothers, than you also to the brothers and sisters—to you whose nights have been full of concern; to you who have extended a hand to them during times of crisis and pressure; to you who understand the boys, who give them heartfelt warmth, a shoulder on which to lean, and; thank you, mainly, for raising and educating them to be what they are—the best. A thousand thanks to you.

Cadets: Be on your way. Remember that we place in your hands our most precious and only resource—our sons. Take care of the State of Israel, take care of our children, take care of yourselves—do everything that is asked of you completely, and return home in peace.

Peres: 'Jordan Is Jordan and Palestine Is Palestine'

TA1407110594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in an address to members of the United Kibbutz Movement at Bet Berl this morning. Labor Knesset Member Hagay Marom told us this is the first time that a senior Labor member has talked about the right solution—a Palestinian state—in an almost direct manner. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports:

[Begin recording] [Ro'e] The United Kibbutz Movement met today in a charged atmosphere. Several kibbutz members from the Golan Heights heckled the foreign minister's speech, criticizing the government's policy. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres nevertheless made an interesting statement with regard to relations between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

[Peres] We are not trying to turn Jordan into Palestine. We do not subscribe to Ari'el Sharon's plan. Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine. [passage omitted]

[Ro'e] The foreign minister also mentioned other issues. He commented on the affair of the four terrorists who entered the Gaza Strip with Yasir 'Arafat's motorcade and replied to Ahmad al-Tibi's assertions that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will not convene to amend the Palestinian Covenant if Mamduh Nawfal is not allowed to enter the boundaries of the Gaza Strip.

[Peres] I do not know that Ahmad al-Tibi is conducting negotiations now that we have an agreement. We reached an agreement that is binding on the Palestinians and on us, but we did not agree that the agreement will cease being an agreement once it has been reached. What is this supposed to mean?

[Ro'e] Peres went on to say that he is against building up settlements on the Golan Heights, while he is in favor of aiding settlements in the Jordan Valley. At the end of his speech and following the criticism from the audience, Peres explained what he meant to journalists.

[Peres] I only pointed to the difference between the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley. I said that as far as the Jordan Valley is concerned we are committed to develop the area, whereas the Golan Heights is not on the agenda at the moment. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 14 July carries a similar report by political correspondent Udi Segal. In a recorded passage, Peres says: "If the PNC convenes, I see no reason to prevent the entry of PNC members, except for those individuals charged with ruthless murders."

[Referring to the negotiations with Syria, "the foreign minister said no serious negotiations had yet started with Damascus. In his address, Peres asserted that Israel had time and again acknowledged Syria's sovereignty in the Golan Heights. The foreign minister was referring to the statements made by Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir at the time of the unity government after the Six-Day War that Israel would be willing to return to the 1967 borders in exchange for peace." Asked whether he subscribes to this position today, Peres replies: "Today, in my opinion, negotiations should start before declarations are made. I am not prepared to make any declarations before negotiations begin."

[Segal goes on to quote Peres as saying that "a withdrawal from the Golan Heights should be mentioned only in the context of negotiations which would include the discussion of security arrangements and of the nature of peace. The foreign minister stressed that it is obvious that if there is no peace with it, Syria will pursue other ways, such as the way of war."]

Rabin, Peres on PLO Attempt To Bring in 'Terrorists'

TA1307153594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, said that he takes a very serious view of the attempt by someone close to 'Arafat to bring in people who had not been authorized by us to enter. This was the reason for the holdup in the departure and entrance of all those who were connected with the incident. The prime minister added that to the best of his knowledge, three of the four men who had entered without authorization had left and Israel may also demand the exit of an additional two or three people. Prime Minister Rabin said that only after the affair had been resolved would a return to normalization be possible; however, he stressed that Israel would explain that it preferred avoiding such smart aleck stunts in the future.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Yitzhaq Rabin was speaking to correspondents at the conclusion of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers course.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Qol Yisra'el that bringing the terrorists into the Gaza Strip as part of Yasir 'Arafat's entourage was a very unsightly trick and that he hoped that both parties had drawn the appropriate conclusions from the affair.

Tzomet, NRP No-Confidence Motion on 'Terrorist' Entry

TA1307154194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Tzomet and the NRP [National Religious Party] submitted a motion of no confidence in the government to the Knesset this afternoon to protest the government's release of the murderers of the Ma'alot children without arresting them or putting them on trial.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the two factions asserted that the government is proving that it is impervious to public sentiment but open to the entry of terrorists. The no-confidence motion will be discussed in the Knesset next Monday [18 July].

'Terrorists' Shoot, Wound Civilian Near Rafah

TA1407090694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] An Israeli civilian was slightly wounded by terrorists' fire northeast of Rafah. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that terrorists in two cars ambushed an Israeli van driving laborers to the Qatif Bloc. One car forced the Israeli van to slow down, while dozens of bullets were fired from close range from the second car. As said, one Israeli civilian was lightly wounded. A Border Police unit and Palestinian police personnel launched a manhunt and searches after the perpetrators, but no one was arrested.

Jerusalem Municipal Bylaws To Restrict PLO Activity

TA1407134394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 94 p A10

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Jerusalem Municipality will make use of municipal bylaws to limit PLO political activity in Jerusalem, it was agreed in a meeting between Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir and Mayor Ehud Olmert.

The meeting was aimed at coordinating positions on the legal measures to be taken beyond the government-initiated legislation to penalize PLO elements which hold political activity in East Jerusalem.

Under the Ben-Ya'ir-Olmert agreement, efforts will also be made to restrict PLO elements in Jerusalem through municipal bylaws. For instance, investigations will be held into whether the activity of institutions and associations conforms with the aims and targets they declared when they received permits to operate.

A senior judicial element made it clear that planning and building laws and the law on licensing businesses give Jerusalem Municipality wide-ranging supervisory powers over institutions and bodies. The municipal bylaws can be implemented when the activities of the organizations do not match their declared aims.

In the view of a senior judicial source, the combination of fixed punishments in the government proposed bill, which will soon be presented for Knesset approval, and the application of municipal bylaws, might virtually block political activity in the capital by bodies identified with the PLO.

Al-Majali on Country's Water, Territorial Concerns

JN1307190994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] During a meeting with members of the Executive Council of the al-Karak Governorate, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali reiterated the constants governing the Jordanian position vis-a-vis the peace process. He also underscored Jordan's rejection of a separate solution, as well as the importance of coordination with all Arab sides.

Details of the statements made by the prime minister are contained in the following report from our correspondent in al-Karak Governorate [Ahmad al-Tarawinah]:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has reiterated that Jordan seeks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, just as it seeks to obtain its full rights to security, territories, and water, and to find a solution to the refugee problem, particularly since Jordan is the country hosting the largest number of refugees in the world. These remarks were made when he met with members of the Executive Council of the al-Karak Governorate today. Interior Minister Salamah Hammad attended.

[Al-Majali] We, as Jordanians, must know what we want. We must be aware of our own demands. We have suffered from wars. We are the country hosting the largest number of refugees on the globe, in the entire world. There is a threat confronting us because of the following factors: Part of our territory is occupied, our waters are being stolen, we are hosting the largest number of refugees in the world, and we have fears. It is true that we are sympathetic to the plight of others. But, when catastrophes strike, we have to defend ourselves first before defending others. Hence, these are the four basic issues that govern the Jordanian policy. We seek the restoration of our occupied territories, the restoration of our water rights, a resolution of the refugee issue, as well as security. These are the issues enshrined in the agenda agreement. For the first time, Israel has acknowledged in writing that it has eastern borders. Based on all the history books you have read, you must have realized that the Israelis have never recognized this fact. You must also remember the Balfour Declaration. Likewise, you must realize that the Jordanian-Palestinian borders were [British] mandate borderlines. They are not internationally recognized borders like the Palestinian-Egyptian, Palestinian- Lebanese, or Palestinian-Syrian borders. The borders between Palestine and each of Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria are recognized internationally, whereas the borderlines between Jordan and Palestine are [British] mandate [preceding word in English] lines, such as the boundaries existing between the locations of two tribes.

[Al-Tarawinah] With regard to the economic situation in the Kingdom, the prime minister noted that Jordan is a country of limited resources and potential, and that security and stability must be achieved for all to encourage investment and promote production projects.

[Al-Majali] During the past two years, not only during the tenure of the incumbent government—it is improper for me to commend the performance of my government—that is, during the period 1992-94, the Jordanian Government has managed to settle approximately $2 billion in debts, which is equivalent to one fourth of Jordan's overall debts. This amount has been settled in various ways. Part of this amount was paid back, whereas another part was bought back. Consequently, one can say that we have managed to rectify our economic affairs. We have managed to prove to the world that we are efficient and competent.

[Al-Tarawinah] Dr. al-Majali also spoke on the government's persistent efforts and endeavors to enforce the concepts and principles pertaining to decentralization through freedom and participation in the decision-making process.

[Al-Majali] I would like to begin by saying that we, in this government, are serious in our statements, and also in our efforts to translate words into deeds. With words, I am here referring to the words freedom and participation. Freedom and participation are the hallmarks of our work. How are we to exercise this freedom in practice? The work of your council is a manifestation of the exercise of this freedom. Your council is a link in the government's performance of its duties. We want this government to consist of links, rather than points. These links must be interconnected. We do not want to see points linked to one another. We have said that freedom and participation are interconnected. These two concepts, when coupled, produce the so-called decentralization. We have faith in the principle of links. We also believe that responsibility and powers must be vested in these collective links. This means that we have faith in collective action and participation. Consequently, we have faith in decentralization.

[Al-Tarawinah] Al-Karak Governor Khalaf al-Mahasinah had earlier delivered a speech in which he reviewed the work of the Executive Council of the governorate, as well as the meetings it has held with citizens in their locations. During these meetings, the Council was apprised of the citizens' requirements, which were properly prioritized. [end recording]

Al-'Anani Comments on Jordanian-U.S-Israeli Talks

JN1407111994 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 1, 17

[Report by Yahya Mahmud]

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has described the stage through which our region is passing as a stage of drawing new maps on the ground in terms of borders of states or there future regional roles, and the importance of these roles in the next stage.

He described Jordan's role as important and indispensable due to several population, economy, water, and security considerations.

Dr. al-'Anani said Jordan has chosen the appropriate timing for activating the bilateral negotiations on the Jordanian track and the convening of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli tripartite commission to discuss future economic issues whose implementation depends on progress in the bilateral negotiations. The main objectives of the bilateral negotiations are the restoration of our usurped land and water rights and working out security arrangements that safeguard our borders against any aggression.

He said negotiations on borders will not deal with Jordan's borders with the West Bank, but will be restricted to Jordan's borders with Israel in accordance with the 1928 agreement concluded during the [British] mandate, before Israel was established in 1948.

Al-'Anani made these statements at a meeting with chief editors of the daily newspapers yesterday.

He said the tripartite meeting that will be held at the Dead Sea Hotel on 20 July will convene two days after the beginning of the bilateral talks, which are to be held in Qa' Taba in Wadi al-'Arabah, 17 km to the north of al-'Aqabah and right on international borders. He said Jordan's acceptance of U.S. participation in the commission was due to U.S. experience and expertise in the Jordan Valley, dating from the times of Johnston and Armitage [reference to U.S. plan on distribution of water from the Jordan River]. It was also due to financial reasons because a project like the canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea requires extensive financing within the framework of the greater project of developing the Jordan Valley that is under discussion within the concerned committee of the multilateral negotiations.

Al-'Anani said the canals between the two seas is a Jordanian project that was suggested after the Mediterranean-Dead Sea project was proposed by Israel.

The information minister said starting to discuss such a project at this time will have positive results on expediting the end of Israeli occupation of Jordanian land and border demarcation since Jordan has linked any progress in the subjects of joint coordination to this issue and the topics included in the agenda signed by Jordan and Israel in Washington.

Among other projects that will be discussed by the tripartite meeting on 20 July is the al-'Aqabah-Taba road, which was a project included in the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David Accords. This road will open new horizons for Jordan, including making Jordan part of the Mediterranean region through Sinai in light of the plan to construct a road linking Mediterranean states.

Among the future benefit expected by Jordan from such a project is that it will greatly facilitate Jordan's access to the Sinai development projects expected in a next stage. Through this land project, Jordan will be closer to Sinai than many Egyptian cities.

As for arrangements for touristic cooperation after substantial progress is made in the bilateral negotiations, Dr. al-'Anani said the tripartite meeting will discuss this subject, and Jordan wants a fair share in foreign tourist groups. He said discussion will not be on allowing Israeli tourists to visit Jordan but on other foreign tourists who visit the area. The information minister disclosed that a council for developing the Petra area was established, headed by minister of tourism and comprising all concerned ministries and the people of the area. The objective of the council is to develop the 900 km area as a main tourist center. He added that preparations are under way to construct nine hotels there.

The fourth project that the tripartite commission will discuss—and whose implementation depends on progress in the bilateral negotiations—is the mutual use of airspace by civilian aircraft. Crossing Israeli airspace enroute to other countries will save 40-60 minutes for Jordanian planes.

Reacts to Peres Sovereignty Statements

JN1407114294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan on Wednesday [13 July] welcomed Israel's expressed willingness to discuss the future of Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem with the Kingdom and said it was a first step in the right direction.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani also described as positive a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that "Jordan is not Palestine, Jordan is Jordan," if that had come in response to an assertion by Ariel Sharon, a hawkish former Israeli defence Minister, of his old theme that the Kingdom was the "homeland" for the Palestinians.

"Jordan's sovereignty is an integral part of Jordan's identity and this is not an issue," Dr. al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES. "But if Mr. Peres made the comment in response to Sharon's assertions, then we see it as positive."

Dr. al-'Anani confirmed that Jordanian and Israeli officials held low level technical talks on Wednesday in the Wadi al-'Arabah desert to prepare for next week's negotiations between the two sides on the key issues of territorial and water rights.

Asked how Jordan viewed Mr. Peres' comments on Tuesday that Israel was ready to discuss with Jordan the future of Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem, Dr. al-'Anani said:

"We do not accept Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its united capital. But we see the Israeli willingness to

discuss with us the future of the Islamic holy places there as a first step in the right direction."

In his comments, Mr. Peres had said that there would be no compromise on Israel's "sovereignty" over all Jerusalem, but that "concerning the options, the rights and needs of the varirous believers, we are open to proposals."

The Israeli minister singled out Jordan as a partner in such a dialogue.

His Majesty King Husayn has said that he would not accept anyone's sovereignty over the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem except God's sovereignty and that the Holy City should be a converging point for peace among the three monotheistic religions.

Dr. al-'Anani said Wednesday's talks in Wadi al-'Arabah dealt with the technical preparations for Jordanian-Israeli negotiations that begin on July 18 and for a trilateral meeting involving the Jordanian, Israeli and American foreign ministers on July 20.

"We have to prepare the ground for the meetings and the discussions held today were of a technical nature," he told the JORDAN TIMES.

Reports from Israel said the delegations met in a newly-built tent camp about 12 kilometres from al-'Aqabah and that the discussions mostly dealt with media coverage of the meetings. Opening speeches of the meetings will be broadcast live on both Jordanian and Israeli televisions.

The daily YEDI'OT AHARONOT said one of the unresolved issues was permits for Israeli journalists to enter Jordanian territory to cover the event. Other reports said Jordan might issue the permits on condition that the journalists would be confined to a specified area. Further details were not immediately available.

AFP adds: The Muslim Brotherhood Wednesday condemned Jordan's decision to hold peace talks with Israel, saying it encouraged "Zionist expansionism" in the region.

"These negotiations are aimed at recongising the Zionist encroachment as legal. They give in to Zionist and American conditions and encourage Zionist expansionism," a statement from the group said it rejected the principle of talks with Israel and "refuses to let the surrender of Arab rights in Palestine... be the price for the occupier's withdrawal from Jordanian territory."

Negotiator on Country's Stand on Water Issue

JN1307201194 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 13-14 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Salamah]

[Text] A responsible Jordanian source has told AKHIR KHABAR that Israel has recognized Jordan's water rights but no agreement has been reached, as yet, on quotas. This will be discussed in next week's negotiations. This recognition materialized during the contacts that usually take place through indirect channels prior to any negotiations between two countries. Israel has stolen 500 million cubic meters of water since 1967 and this has increased to 700 million cubic meters at the present time. [sentence as published]

Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, head of the water committee in the Jordanian negotiating delegation, said that during the negotiations with Israel, Jordan will insist that Israel's share of the al-Yarmuk water not exceed whatever is needed for 16,000 donums, which is its natural right.

AKHIR KHABAR has learned that during the negotiations that will start next week, the preparations for which have already begun with a meeting in the 'Afrunah [name as transliterated] area, near Elat, this morning, Jordan will do its best to restore all of its water rights to the al-Yarmuk and Jordan rivers, which Israel alone has been exploiting on the northern side since its occupation of the Arab territories in 1948 and 1967.

Prosecutor Issues 'Explosions' Indictment

JN0807151594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Military Judge Major Muhannad Hijazi, public prosecutor of the State Security Court, has issued a bill of indictment against the defendants in the "explosions" case. There are 25 defendants, including an Omani and Saudi who are still at large.

The defendants are: 'Abdallah Kamil 'Abdallah al-Hashayikah, 24; Isma'il Sa'id Khalil al-'Amayirah, 28; Zakariya Muhammad Dawud Qasim, 23; Jihad Ahmad Khalid al-Tanjir, 24; Muhammad Ahmad al-Harithi, an Omani national who is still at large; Khalil Tawfiq Muhammad 'Alqam, 29; Muhammad 'Ali 'Isa Shihadah Abu-'Ayyad, 26; Khalid 'Ali Ahmad Abu-Duma, 26; Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah al- 'Adharibah, 25; Samir Ahmad Muhammad Taylakh, 23; Muhammad Ahmad al- Shaykh 'Abdallah Salih al-Fahmawi, alias Muhammad Islam, 22; 'Id Salih Husayn al-Jahalin, 31; Yasin Hasan Muhammad Zahrah, 20; Sulayman 'Abd-al-'Al Ahmad Baysah, 22; Hasan Hamdan Hasan 'Abd-al-Qadir, student; Muhammad Sa'id Muqbil Dar 'Awdah, 24; Fa'iq Salih Hasan al-Shawish, 29; 'Umar Jibril Muhammad Mahmud al-Shawahin, 29; 'Isam 'Awad Dawud al-Dayah, 22; Yahya 'Uwaydat Muhammad al- Shawarikah, at large; 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid Abu-Dayyah, 34; Ra'd Khalil Zahir al-Kasabirah, 22; Walid Muhammad Salih 'Ashsha, 22; Muhammad Salih Musa Ziyadah, 22; Muhammad Jamal Khalifah, a Saudi national who is still at large.

Charges

All defendants, except for defendant No. 21, 'Abd-al-Majid, are charged with belonging to an illegal society, in violation of the provisions of Article 159/1 and Article 160 of Penal Code No. 16 of 1960; participating in a conspiracy with the intention of committing terrorist acts, in violation of the provisions of Articles 147, 148/1/4 and 76 of Penal Code No. 16 of 1960; and possessing explosive materials (acetone peroxide plus dynamite) without a legal license for illegal purposes, in violation of the provisions of Article 12/2 of Explosives Law No. 13 of 1953 and its amendments. As for the defendant No. 21, he is charged with withholding information regarding a crime against state security, in violation of the provisions of Article 206/1 of Penal Code No. 16 of 1960.

Facts:

During the period between 1990-1992, the first defendant, 'Abdallah, the second, Isma'il, the third, Zakariya, and the fourth, Jihad, became acquainted through their military service in the Palestine Liberation Army. During that period, the four defendants studied the idea of establishing an Islamic organization in Jordan that would adopt the use of force and violence as its primary means to achieve its aims. Following more than one year of lengthy sessions and deliberations, the four defendants finally agreed to establish this organization.

The most important objectives and principles of this organization were as follows:

1. Working to set up an Islamic caliphate-style state.
2. Fighting tyrant Arab rulers and resisting the peace process. They defined a tyrant ruler as every ruler who does not rule in accordance with God's laws.
3. Fighting vice and removing it by force and violence.
4. Fighting Jews and Americans and striking at their interests.
5. Spreading a spirit of jihad thinking inside and outside Jordan.
6. Instilling jihad in the hearts of young people and recruiting the largest number of them to achieve their purposes.

The first, second, third, and fourth defendants agreed to set up a command committee for the organization as follows:

The first defendant, Isma'il, the third, Zakariya, and the fourth Jihad, would be members.

The defendants agreed that the organization's base should be divided so as to encompass the entire kingdom, as follows:

The Suwaylih District, led by the first defendant, 'Abdallah;
Al-Baq'ah District, led by the second defendant, Isma'il;
Al-Hashimi District, led by the third defendant, Zakariya;
Al-Mafraq District, led by the fourth defendant, Jihad.

The defendants established the means to achieve the objectives of this illegal organization so the means would suit the nature of the target. If the target was a place of vice and corruption like movie theaters and liquor stores, these should be blasted; if the target was a political or intellectual figure, he should be assassinated.

The defendants agreed to leave the organization unnamed to avoid the scrutiny of security agencies. The defendants also agreed on the need to rely on self-financing to begin with, pending the establishment of external contacts to secure moral and financial backing.

The defendants then proceeded to recruit members to the organization. District leaders were entrusted with recruiting members, each in his own district. They agreed that members should be sought from among the young section of the population who frequent mosques, and from among those who are noted for their extremist views. The first defendant, 'Abdallah, succeeded in recruiting the fifth and 16th defendants, Muhammad al-Harithi and Muhammad Sa'id. The third defendant, Zakariya, succeeded in recruiting Khalil and the 22d defendant, Ra'd. The fourth defendant, Jihad, succeeded in recruiting the ninth defendant, 'Isam.

The second defendant, Isma'il, the leader of al-Baq'ah District, had known the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, the eighth, Khalid, and the ninth, Muhammad, for more than 10 years, since all were residents of al-Baq'ah refugee camp district. They used to get together on a regular basis by virtue of their frequenting the camp's mosque. They used to discuss rampant corruption and vice in society, advocating its elimination with violence, quoting a saying by the prophet Muhammad: "If you encounter vice, use your own hands to eradicate it; if you can't do that advise against it with your tongue; if you can't do that condemn it in your heart, which is the weakest form of faith."

With the benefit of the assistance of the eighth defendant, Khalid, they managed to manufacture the explosive acetene peroxide in the al-Masa'id neighborhood, close to the Nabulus district in al-Baq'ah camp. The seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, helped in manufacturing the explosive, having been instructed by the eighth defendant, Khalid. After completing the manufacture of the substance, they concealed it in a damp dusty place by a canal close to al-Baqa'h camp, given its inflammability.

This group was joined by the ninth defendant, Muhammad, and the 10th, Samir, and the 11th, Muhammad Islam. Having prepared the means for action, the second, seventh, eighth, and ninth defendants, Isma'il, Muhammad 'Ali, Khalid, and Muhammad, embarked on executing the following operations:

On 18 July, 1992, the abovementioned defendants prepared a 1-kg explosive charge, which the ninth defendant, Muhammad, placed inside al-Yarmuk Movie

House in the Baq'ah camp district. The charge blew up, wounding seven citizens and causing material damage to the theater building.

In the same month, the defendants repeated the operation, with the eighth defendant, Khalid, placing an explosive charge inside the Salwa Movie House in al-Zarqa', but it failed to go off.

As a result of his organizational link, the second defendant, Isma'il, decided to admit this group into the organization. A meeting was arranged at his house between the first defendant, 'Abdallah, the leader of the organization, and the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali.

Discussions at this meeting dealt with the organization, its objectives, and the means it should employ to realize these objectives. The seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, suggested the idea of manufacturing acetone peroxide explosives, and said he possessed these explosives. In the end, it was agreed to admit the 7th, 8th, ninth, 10th, and 11th defendants into the organization.

Later, the second defendant, Isma'il; the seventh, Muhammad 'Ali; and the ninth, Muhammad, began recruiting new members. The second defendant, Isma'il, recruited the 20th defendant, Yahya, who manufactured quantities of acetone peroxide that were later seized at his house.

The seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, succeeded in recruiting the 12th defendant, 'Id; the 13th defendant, Yasin; the 14th defendant, Salman; the 15th defendant, Hasan, and the 24th defendant, Muhammad Salih. The ninth defendant, Muhammad, was able to recruit the 17th defendant, Fa'iq, and the 18th defendant 'Umar, who possessed supplies of dynamite. They delivered the dynamite to the ninth defendant, Muhammad, for use in terrorist operations that were later carried out.

After the organization's commanders completed recruitment of elements, and after it made sure that this organization could realize its objectives, these commanders began to prepare the means of fulfilling these objectives, namely, weapons and explosives. The sixth defendant, Khalil, delivered a quantity of automatic weapons, dynamite, and walkie-talkie sets to the first defendant, 'Abdallah, who kept them in his house in Suwaylih. Khalil got these weapons from one of the defendants in the Muhammad's Army Organization case, who is at large, and who had kept them in his house since 1991.

The first defendant, 'Abdallah; the fifth, Muhammad; the seventh, Muhammad 'Ali, and the 10th, Samir, began manufacturing explosives (9.5 kg) at the house of the fifth defendant, Muhammad. They hid them at the house for three months. The explosives were then moved to the house of the second defendant, Isma'il, in al-Baq'ah, in the car of the fifth defendant, Muhammad al-Harithi. Later, the explosives were moved to the house of the 16th defendant, Muhammad Sa'id, who kept them until the date of their use, when the third defendant, Zakariya, and 16th defendant, Muhammad Sa'id, moved them to al-Baq'ah and delivered them to the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, who hid them at the house of the 11th defendant, Muhammad Islam. On the instructions of the third defendant, Zakariya, the 22d defendant, Ra'd, bought raw materials that are used in handmade explosives at his own expense. These materials were delivered to the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, to manufacture them.

In mid-1993, and after the organization command completed its preparations for training of elements and obtaining weapons, the defendants who were members of the command committee began searching for targets in Jordan. They began planning to bomb some hotels in Amman and al-'Aqabah, such as the Grand Palace Hotel in Amman. The ninth defendant, Muhammad al-Dawayimah, asked 'Abd-al-Nasir Muhammad Yunus, who was working at that hotel, to place an explosive device in the hotel's heating room, but the latter refused. The seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, and the 11th, Muhammad Islam, inspected some targets in the hotel area in al-'Aqabah, because—according to their conviction—corruption is widespread in these places.

The 11th defendant, Muhammad Islam, was asked to put acetone peroxide explosives in these hotels. Leather bags were obtained to carry the explosives. Due to difficulty in transporting these explosives—which are highly sensitive to heat—from Amman to al-'Aqabah, the defendants were forced to postpone implementation of this operation.

The first defendant, 'Abdallah, the fourth, Jihad, and the 16th defendant, Muhammad Sa'id, inspected areas in Amman where some General Intelligence officers lived in order to assassinate them or to kidnap one of their sons.

In line with the organization's objectives of resisting the peace process, the defendants, who are members of the command committee, began to plan for the assassination of members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali during his chairmanship of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations. The first defendant, 'Abdallah, charged the fourth defendant, Jihad, with contacting Dr. al-Majali. He was to claim he was a journalist and to ask for an interview. The purpose of such a meeting was to assassinate Dr. al-Majali. However, as Dr. al-Majali had left the country at that time, the meeting did not take place and the assassination was not carried out.

On 3 July 1993, the eighth defendant, Khalid, placed a bomb made of acetone peroxide in the car of Muhammad Yusuf al-Wahidi in al-Baq'ah camp, because the latter is a PLO member who supports the peace process. The bomb exploded at 0900 on the same day.

During that period, the first defendant, 'Abdallah, was employed by the 21st defendant, 'Abd-al-Majid, in his

shop in the Suwaylih area. 'Abdallah told 'Abd-al-Majid about the existence of the organization and that it intended to carry out terrorist operations in Jordan. The first and 21st defendants are active members in the Muslim Brotherhood and belong to the Suwaylih branch, which is led by Suwaylih deputy Dr. Muhammad Abu-Faris.

The organization's command began to search for outside sources of financing. The first defendant, 'Abdallah, left Jordan for the Philippines, where he worked in the Imam al-Shafi'i center led by the 25th defendant, Muhammad Jamal, one of Usamah Bin-Ladin's in-laws. The first defendant, 'Abdallah, received training in one of the camps there. He suggested to the 25th defendant, Muhammad Jamal, that he finance the organization and informed him that the organization was preparing to carry out terrorist operations in Jordan. Muhammad Jamal agreed to finance the organization but set as a condition his coming to Jordan to assess the organization's state of affairs and its preparedness to carry out these operations. He set early 1994 as a date for his arrival.

The third defendant, Zakariya, left Jordan for Yemen to meet Usamah Bin-Ladin, who supports extremists and who previously moved between Yemen and Sudan. He wanted to ask him for financial assistance. The third defendant, Zakariya, stayed for three months in one of the military camps belonging to Bin-Ladin, during which he was trained on how to assemble handmade bombs and how to detonate bombs by remote control, using children's electronic toys. He also learned how to produce toxic materials. He also received $10,000 from 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani.

After the first defendant, 'Abdallah, returned from the Philippines in late 1993, he met with the organization's command and with the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, and briefed them on the agreement he had concluded with the 25th defendant, Muhammad Jamal. He said the latter would come to Jordan to become acquainted with the organizations' terrorist activities and offer it financial support. The organization's command and cadres agreed to carry out the terrorist operations on which they had agreed. The seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, and the 10th defendant, Samir, prepared three bombs made of a mixture of acetone peroxide and dynamite and placed this mixture in three toffee boxes wrapped in gift paper. The 13th defendant, Yasin, the 14th defendant, Sulayman, and the 15th defendant, Hasan, were tasked by the first defendant, 'Abdallah to place one of these boxes in the Housing Bank Complex. On 13 January 1994, the 13th, 14th, and 15th defendants left for the Housing Bank Complex in Amman where they tried to place the box. However, the concentrated presence of the complex guards made it difficult to carry out what they came to do. The defendants went back to al-Baq'ah camp. On their way back, they decided to place the bomb in al-'Akrush supermarket in the Safut area because it sells alcoholic drinks. The 13th defendant, Yasin, placed the bomb in the storeroom of the supermarket while the 14th defendant, Sulayman, and the 15th defendant, Hasan, waited outside the supermarket. The next day, the bomb was discovered by supermarket employee Nasir Bishay Bakhit who informed the Public Security Department, which defused the bomb.

On the evening of 14 January 1994, the ninth defendant, Muhammad al-Dawayimah, and the 10th defendant, Samir, carrying two explosive charges, left for Amman. The 10th defendant, Samir, planted a charge at the Zahran Movie Theater in Amman, while the ninth defendant, Muhammad, left for the Rivoli Movie Theater in Amman to plant the other explosive charge there. But when he approached the theater door, he observed stringent inspection measures. This prompted him to change his mind and head for the Saqf al-Sayl restrooms, where he removed the charge timer and returned to al-Baq'ah Camp, carrying the charge with him.

On 25 January 1994, the 10th defendant, Samir, brought four coconuts to the carpentry shop he and the ninth defendant, Muhammad al-Dawayimah own, where he punctured these coconuts, emptied them of their liquid, and filled them with acetone peroxide. He then delivered the coconuts to the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, who booby-trapped them and delivered them, along with timers, to the 13th defendant, Yasin, and the 14th defendant, Sulayman, after teaching them how to set the timers when they placed the charges in the target areas. He asked them to place the booby-trapped coconuts inside the Rivoli Movie Theater in Amman, near the projector room in particular.

At approximately 1000 on 26 January 1994, the 13th and 14th defendants left for the Rivoli Movie Theater, carrying with them the explosive charges embedded inside the four coconuts. They bought some bananas and placed them near the coconuts to distract attention. The 13th defendant managed to enter the movie theater, where he sat at the last seat in the box loge under the projector room. He removed the timer from his pocket and placed it in the hole of a coconut. He then placed the four coconuts under the seat he was occupying. Afterward, he left the movie theater for the al-Husayni Mosque of Amman, where he was awaited by the 14th defendant, Sulayman. At approximately 1400 on the same day, the explosive charges went off while citizens were watching a movie. This resulted in the wounding of prosecution witnesses Muhammad 'Abd-al- Hafiz al-'Adwan and Salah 'Awwad Yusuf. The first witness lost a leg, whereas the second lost an eye. Additionally, the movie theater building sustained material damage.

In the aftermath of the Rivoli Movie Theater explosion, the seventh defendant moved the explosives from his house to the carpentry workshop owned by the ninth and 10th defendants, where the explosive charges were manufactured.

On 31 January 1994, the ninth defendant, Muhammad, and the 10th defendant, Samir, used the aforementioned

method to rig four coconuts with the explosive acetone peroxide. They delivered the coconuts to the seventh defendant, Muhammad 'Ali, who booby-trapped them and delivered them, along with timers, to the 12th defendant, 'Id, on the morning of 1 February 1994, after teaching him how to use them. Based on a previous agreement, the seventh defendant asked 'Id to plant these charges at the Salwa Movie Theater in al-Zarqa'. The 12th defendant, 'Id, left for the Salwa Movie Theater at approximately 1100, and sat in the last seat under the projector room. He then set the timers. When the charges were readied to explode at the set time, 1400, he placed them under the seat he was occupying. The charges went off at 1345, while the 12th defendant was still in the movie theater. This cost him injuries, as well as the amputation of his two legs. Hanafi Mahmud 'Id, an Egyptian national, was also wounded in the explosion. Additionally, the movie theater sustained material damage.

Afterward, and as a result of initial investigations conducted by competent authorities, the 12th defendant, 'Id, was discovered and the state security court informed. The rest of the accused were then rounded up and their homes and business premises searched. A Kalashnikov, 100 bullets, and two fire suppressors [katim lahab] were found in the home of the first defendant, 'Abdallah. In the home of the third defendant, Zakariya, a collection of books and literature with formulas for the manufacture of explosives and poisons were found. In the home of the seventh defendant, Muhammad, 300 mg of the explosive substance acetone peroxide, along with a stop watch, were found. In the carpentry of the ninth and 10th defendants, Muhammad al-'Adhariyah and Samir, a supply of acetone peroxide, watches, batteries, and wires used in preparing explosive charges were found. In the home of the ninth defendant a shotgun and 252 bullets were found. In the homes of the 11th and fourth defendants watches, wires and electrical devices used in triggering explosions were found. In the home of the 16th defendant, Muhammad Sa'id, a Kalashnikov with two magazines and 68 bullets were found.

Also uncovered were six sticks of dynamite in the home of the 17th defendant, Fa'iq, and 60 sticks of dynamite in the home of the 18th defendant, 'Umar. Three hundred mg of acetone peroxide, and electrical wires used in the preparation of explosive charges were found in the home of the 20th defendant, Yahya.

Witnesses

'Ali Mahmud Wuraykat; Nasir Bishay Bakhit; Ahmad Muhsin Ahmad Rahayilah; Usamah Mahmud Sulayman al-Mumani; Salih 'Uwaydat Mahmud al-Sawarikah; 'Abd-al-Nasir Mahmud Yunus; Ja'far Jamil 'Abd-al-Rahim; Muhammad 'Ali 'Abbud; Muhammad Amin Hasan Jabr; Muhammad Khalid 'Abd-al-Hafiz; Salah 'Awwad Yusuf; Yusuf Salih al-Shawish; Walid Muhammad Salih Dabbur; and 'Ali al-Nusur.

Written evidence:

- Medical reports
- Exhibits
- Search warrants
- Inspection and technical expertise reports
- Case No. 124/94/m at the state security court
- The defendants testimonies at investigation
- The weapons, explosives, and books and publications
- The legal evidence

The prosecution demand

Convicting the defendants of all the charges of which they are accused, sentencing them in accordance with the provisions of the law, and confiscating all the weapons and explosives found in their possession.

Hizballah Source Previews Christopher Tour

MM1307155094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Walid Shuqayr: "Hizballah: We Are Against Negotiations, But It Is Important to Us That the Lebanese Position Not Weaken"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—A leading Hizballah source has told AL-HAYAH that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, scheduled to begin on 17 July, might bring nothing new and no important development at the level of the peace negotiations.

The source expects the U.S. aims for the tour to be limited to keeping the peace process atmosphere alive so that it will not lose momentum as a result of the gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions, especially on the Golan and other issues.

The source pointed out that the Syrian position "is strong, coherent, and carries a logic that cannot be shaken easily in the face of Israeli intransigence. Despite the pressures put on Syria, Israeli threats will not be able to dissuade it from its orientations. If they want to wage a war against it, it will not be easy and the effects will not be in the interests of the U.S.-sponsored peace process."

The source said that Hizballah, however, "views conditions in the region cautiously because of the danger of the pressure being exerted on Syria as well as the danger of attempts to isolate and single it out to force it to make concessions."

The source believes that "Hizballah's reading of the situation in the region indicates that Israeli intransigence will continue, escalation by Tel Aviv will continue, and Lebanon will be the scene of this escalation. This is why we believe we must reinforce the internal front to confront the stage ahead, especially as the Israeli escalation comes in diffirent circumstances this time." [passage omitted]

Current attacks and pressures are aimed at the following:

— Forcing Lebanon to agree to negotiate separately, and getting rid of the resistance launched against the Israeli occupation.

— Directly targeting Syria, which is insisting on a comprehensive solution, and forcing it to concede the minimum demands on which it is insisting in order to reduce losses resulting from a peace with the enemy.

— Raising questions about the Syrian role in Lebanon, especially with regard to the security escalation, as recent Israeli operations, especially in al-Biqa', are a reply to the authorities' and Syria's thwarting of the scheme of the political forces on which Israel relied to explode the situation in Lebanon after the Sayyidat al-Najah Church explosion. [passage omitted]

The source went on: "True, we are against Lebanon's participation in the negotiations with Israel, but it is important to us that the Lebanese position should not weaken as a result of what is happening. This is why despite our oppositionist position, we are surmounting disputed questions, because the region is approaching important developments. And the position of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's government has provided a joint political ground for that. However, it does not mean that we should forget that the government must present to us a reply to the Chamber of Deputies' demand to reveal the outcome of the investigation into the 13 September 1993 massacre."

The source stressed that "some people give unrealistic local interpretations of our positive dealing with the government, while we view the situation from a regional angle in order to reinforce the Syrian position, the resistance, and Lebanon. Can people see there is a difference between the government's position last year—when it nearly fell into the trap by reading regional developments wrongly and trying to push the Army into the south and the border areas to prevent the resistance from continuing their operations as a result of the aggression—and now? There is a big difference between the two positions. This is why we condemned its previous position and now value its current position."

The leading Hizballah source was asked: You portray the situation as though the government has abandoned its position, while it says that it has not changed its support for the resistance. Is your position not the result of the pressures exerted to break up the Iranian-Syrian relationship, especially as Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in the wake of the recent Israeli campaign that Iran would not place any material obstacles in the way of the peace process? The source said: "What is happening is designed to deprive Syria of strong cards in view of what is happening in the region. Iran is keen to strengthen the Syrian position, and Hizballah is keen to help in whatever strengthens the Syrian position. The alarming thing is that the U.S. position is seeking to exploit the difference of position between Iran and Syria as a result of different locations: Iran is far from the confrontation and Syria is adjacent to Israel. Rafsanjani's announcement that Iran does not intend to place any material obstacles in the way of the peace process should be understood as a logical position. One should differentiate between the principled Iranian position rejecting a U.S.-Israeli settlement—because in the Iranian leadership's view, it will not restore Arab and Islamic rights—and the practical position summed up in supporting what it believes right, namely the forces wishing to fight Israel. Iran has no direct presence in order for it to fight Israel and obstruct the peace process. It is interested in supporting the forces which want to take such a decision if they so wish. So it is not Iran which is fighting in the south against the occupation. It is Hizballah, which Iran supports as long as Hizballah continues to seek support for this policy. It is not Iran which is fighting in the occupied territories; it is Hamas." [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Sees U.S. as 'Enemy' of Arabs, Muslims

NC1307172494 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 1 Jul 94 p 5

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has praised the Islamic resistance's heroism because it has made the enemy scream in pain and feel that he has a major problem on his hands.

He reminded the state of the need for the return of all displaced persons from al-Nab'ah, Sin al-Fil, and the border areas and called on it to draw up a plan that puts the return of displaced persons at the top of the government's priorities.

Speaking in his Friday sermon at al-Imam al-Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abid, Ayatollah Fadlallah said: "[passage omitted] When the Arabs were asked to embark on a settlement with the enemy, the cordon states [Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO] wanted to embark on it together. But the United States objected because this meant that they would in a stronger position because of their unity. Embarking on the settlement as Arabs and Muslims they would be a nation seeking its interests. But they do not want the Arabs or Muslims to seek their interests collectively and therefore they insisted that they act separately. The Palestinians were not allowed to have their own identity. 'Israel' even split up the committees, did not let them meet in a single building, and the Arab League was even prevented from attending the meetings as an observer because they do not want the Arabs to act together. Thus, the barrier collapsed after the Palestinians signed. Jordan has started to follow the same route under U.S.-Israeli pressure, thus leaving Lebanon and Syria alone in the arena. They want to implement the ploy and the plot without the involvement of the other Arabs."

He then stressed that "the truth is that global arrogance has succeeded through all the pressures it has exerted to penetrate this nation and rip it apart so that it cannot obtain anything unless it conforms to the U.S.-Israeli conditions." He added that "the U.S. objective from the settlement is to protect its interests and those of 'Israel' and it is working to stir up differences so as to make each party act independently of the others."

Commenting on the U.S. President's recent statements that "the United States respects Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said: "The United States always speaks this language. But we know that it says one thing today and then retracts on it the next day. The United States voted for Resolution 425 and compelled Lebanon to enter the negotiations. It is voicing one opinion today but does not abide by it. It is the country that withdraws a resolution it voted for yesterday. It does so because of its interests and not its principles because it is a state without principles."

He added: "On the other hand, the United States is giving 'Israel' the green light to kill civilians in the south because Israel' vents its anger and unleashes its planes and guns against civilians when it cannot confront the mujahidin. The United States gives the Arabs words because they feel happy with words but gives 'Israel' military might and support. It is acting now to encircle the Arab situation so that everyone will follow the U.S.-Israeli line that protects 'Israeli' and U.S. interests."

Referring to the U.S.-backed Israeli statements of concern over Syrian missiles, Ayatollah Fadlallah said: "'Israel' has 100 atomic bombs, nuclear warheads, and the most advanced planes and missiles. The United States is crisscrossing the world to control nuclear weapons but does not refer to this at all because it is planning to make 'Israel' the strongest in the region and the Arabs the weakest. We want to raise these issues before the nation so that it gets to know the U.S. role in strengthening the enemy and weakening us." He stressed that "the United States is not the friend of Arab and Muslim peoples but its actions show that it is their enemy. We have to tell the enemy from the friend."

Praising the Islamic resistance's heroism, stand, and retaliation against the enemy to the extent of making him cry out in pain and feel that he has a major problem on his hands, he said: "We must make the enemy feel more pain and suffer more losses. This might not create a balance between the pains he is inflicting on us and the pains we are inflicting on him but this makes us feel that we are a nation that can defeat the enemy." [passage omitted]

Fadlallah then said: "The issue of the oppressed is the most important one in the country because they are the majority of the people." He reiterated his call to "Muslims and Christians to unite and to work together to solve the country's problems. The issue now is how a person can earn an honest living in Lebanon, remain free inside, and also outside when confronting the occupier. This is our priority in this country."

Protests Lead to Legislation Lifting News Ban

Hunger Strike Protests Ban

NC1307191794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The follow-up committee set up by workers in the audio-visual media has decided to escalate protests and begin a hunger strike that will start tomorrow morning and end when a decision to return news and political programs is issued. The committee expressed astonishment and indignation that a quorum was not obtained in the House of Representatives session today.

Parliament Debates Issue

NC1307174094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Report by Christian Usi]

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies today could not make any decision on the audio and visual media issue. Speaker Nabih Birri adjourned the session at 1445 this afternoon until 1030 tomorrow. Birri said that a proposed law on the media will top the agenda of tomorrow's session, adding that the Chamber of Deputies is prepared to discuss the media issue even if it takes five years to complete.

The proposed law, submitted by Deputy Zahir al-Khatib, permits the private audio and visual media organs to broadcast newscasts and political programs on a decision from the information minister, provided these organs abide by the new media law as soon as it is passed. This issue dominated much of today's discussion from the moment it was proposed at 1215 until the session was adjourned at 1445.

The first speaker at the session was acting Information Minister Muhsin Dallul, who criticized the war-time media and stressed that the government has submitted a draft law that addresses all the details. He urged deputies not to be hasty about the proposed law and to wait for a discussion of the government's draft law.

Deputy al-Khatib answered him by saying that the whole thing is part of the democratic game. Deputy Muhammad Yusuf Baydun stated that the Bloc of Salvation and Change backs al-Khatib's proposed law.

Responding to the deputies' remarks, Prime Minister al-Hariri stressed that the media is one of the most serious issues facing the state in the post-war era, particularly since the media organs played a major role during the war. The al-Ta'if agreement, he added, included provisions for regulating the media in a responsible way. He added: Lebanon without freedoms would not be Lebanon, and we believe in this. I am the only one who owns media organs, so nobody should engage in one-upmanship with me in this regard. I have my own television, own half of the shares of Tele Liban, and a number of licenses to publish newspapers, which I will publish soon. So no one can upstage me over the question of freedoms.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri went on to say: We are keen on freedom and democracy. There were only the media organs during the war. There was no freedom. Then the state began to restore its respect and authority. The al-Ta'if accord was concluded, and governments were formed. Were the governments responsible for not organizing the media? No. All the governments sincerely tried to organize the media that were allowed to broadcast news, commentaries, and programs. Any minister who voiced a different view was criticized.

He added: All these reasons should not lead to a closure of the media. The government has undertaken the responsibility of building the state of institutions. Deputy al-Khatib's proposal violates the cabinet's decision and means withdrawal of confidence from the government. I do not want to say this. Let there be 50 television stations and 100 radio stations. Technically speaking, they cannot all operate on inter-crossing frequencies. It is true that we were late in approving the draft law because it was not an easy one. The law was issued on Monday [11 July] evening and was then referred to the Chamber of Deputies. I do not mean to embarrass the parliamentary assembly, as deputy Pierre al-Hilu said. We are ready, as a government, to discuss it with you no matter how long it takes. But there is a law and the government is proud of it. It might be the first of its kind in the Arab world.

Prime Minister al-Hariri then said: I hope we can discuss the issue realistically. The draft law cannot be debated now as the debate will take time until it is passed. It might take several months, and that is the truth, but the solution does not lie in allowing this quantity of media organs to resume operations nor does it lie in continuing their closure. We can reach a reasonable and logical solution. We might draft a law that will allow the government to quickly temporary licenses quickly based on decrees within the rules that have been discussed.

Following several deliberations, Deputy Joseph Mughayzil proposed a solution based on Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's and deputy Zahir al-Khatib's proposals. Deputy Ghassan Matar proposed another solution. Health Minister Marwan Hamadah made a proposal that he said was based on Prime Minister al-Hariri's proposal.

Speaker Nabih Birri then tried to put these proposals to a vote to see which of them would be acceptable, but the number of members needed for a quorum gradually decreased. Speaker Birri then adjourned the session at 1445 and said it will be resumed at 1030 tomorrow. But, he added, let it be known that the media issue will be the first item on tomorrow's agenda and that the chamber is willing to work for 50 years until this issue is decided.

The session began at 1045 today and the deputies quickly ratified 14 draft laws and referred to the committees a draft law and another proposed law.

Parliament Approves Bill

NC1407094594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] A short while ago, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved a bill submitted by Deputy Joseph Mughayzil to allow the audio-visual media to broadcast news and political programs.

Central Sector Bombarded; Israelis Make Overflights

Helicopters Dispatched

NC1307114694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1044 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk:

Since 1330 this afternoon the central sector has been under 120-mm shellfire. The approaches of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and Shaqra were bombarded from the Israeli positions in Tallusah. Citizen 'Ali Muhammad Darwish from Shaqra was hit in the stomach and taken to the hospital.

Meanwhile, some 20 shells landed on Wadi al-Saluqi. Israeli helicopters are currently flying over the area.

IDF Soldiers Injured

TA1307141594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Four IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly injured during exchanges of fire between the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the IDF, on the one hand, and terrorists on the other, in south Lebanon. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that the terrorists fired mortar shells at the soldiers who were conducting routine activity in the security zone's central sector. IDF and SLA artillery retaliated with fierce shelling. The sector is now quiet.

Hizballah Claims Operation

NC1307162794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The Islamic Resistance has attacked with rockets a position of the enemy and its agents in Tallusah. Four Israeli soldiers were wounded in the attack and ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the incident. [passage omitted]

AFP has quoted a Hizballah source as claiming responsibility for the operation. The source pointed out that the resistance fighters had spotted and attacked with rockets an assembly point of enemy vehicles, scoring direct hits and killing or wounding a number of enemy troops. [passage omitted]

For his part, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has explained that the Israeli enemy's mini-cabinet meeting on security affairs calls for caution and the need to keep a close watch on the situation. He noted that Israel, shocked by the resistance activity in al-Biqa' and the casualties among its troops, might embark on a certain adventure. Therefore, he added, we must keep a close watch on the situation.

Russian Businesses Seek Contracts To Rebuild Beirut

NC1207133794 Paris AFP in English 1244 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 12 (AFP)—A delegation of Russian businessmen is visiting Lebanon seeking contracts to help rebuild Beirut's war-shattered center, the head of the team said.

"For the first time a Russian delegation, capable of financing projects keys-in-hand, is visiting Lebanon," Vladimir Korolev said on Monday [11 July]. Korolev, a representative of the Russian center for scientific and cultural cooperation, arrived for a five-day visit here on Sunday at the head of a team of businessmen and industrialists.

The delegation met on Monday with Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Economy Minister Hagop Demerdjian. Korolev expected al-Hariri to ratify a Russian-Lebanese economic cooperation accord during a visit to Moscow in September.

Preparations for the reconstruction of the Beirut city center have picked up steam over the past few weeks, with demolition crews clearing rubble and levelling damaged buildings and markets. Infrastructure work estimated at 500 million dollars is expected to be launched in August as part of a 25-year project to rebuild and develop a total of 4.4 million square meters (47.34 million square feet) of built-up area.

Afghanistan

Security Forces To Control Distribution of Bread

LD1307190894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Announcement by the Jami'at-e Eslami-e of Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan]:

In order to assist the Muslim population of Kabul city, the services and social welfare committee of the Jami'at-e Eslami-e of Afghanistan, has concluded a contract with a number of the city's bakeries. These bakeries will supply the citizens with 75,000 loaves of bread per day at half price. All security wards are, therefore, asked to extend their cooperation in this respect with the responsible Brothers [party members] and to prevent abuse by the armed men. The distribution of subsidized bread is intended merely to the citizens not to the armed men.

Pakistani Sources Say Najibollah in Peshawar

PM1107084494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Information Not Confirmed by United Nations Says Najibollah in Pakistan"]

[Excerpt] Peshawar—High-ranking Pakistani sources have told AL-HAYAH that former Afghan President Najibollah arrived in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, last week with UN help for hospitalization. Najibollah, the last communist president of Afghanistan, has for months been suffering from a kidney disease. The sources said that Najibollah is staying in a house in the exclusive district of al-Difa' in Peshawar. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Discusses Political Situation

LD1307175694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The high session of ministers was held under the chairmanship of esteemed Engineer Ahamd Shah Ahmadzai, minister of city and house construction and acting prime minister. At this session, the country's political situation was discussed and the session's members spoke about the current situation in the country.

On the basis of a proposal presented by esteemed Pohand Sayyed Omar Monib, minister of high and vocational education, and in order to assist the boarding students of the high and vocational education institutions, the session decided the following:

In order to meet the cost of accommodation and the cost of boarding houses for the eligible students and pupils, the sum of 30,000 and 25,000 afghanis per month respectively should be paid; and the sum of 8,000 afghanis per month should be paid to non-boarding students and pupils of the Ministry of High and Vocational Education to meet the cost of their transportation during the academic year.

ICO Chief's Residence Comes Under Rocket Attack

LD1307220194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militias have fired a hail of rockets on the residence of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general.

The BAKHTAR political commentator writes the following:

Before his arrival in Kabul, the security of His Excellency Hamid Algabid, ICO secretary general, was a cause for concern which was reflected by the mass media. In order to provide the appropriate facilities, the Islamic State of Afghanistan declared a unilateral cease-fire. Reliable sources reported that Golboddin Hekmatyar personally assured esteemed Algabid by telephone that rockets would not be fired at Kabul while his visit was still in progress. On the first day of His Excellency Algabid's visit to Kabul, however, his residence came under a heavy rain of rockets fired by the evil Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam triangle.

It has been reported that a number of neighboring countries, prior to the arrival of His Excellency Algabid in Kabul, were insisting that the meeting of the leadership shura be held outside Afghanistan. They stressed that several of the jihadi leaders are outside the country and the convocation of the leadership shura is [words indistinct] if esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, takes part in it. [as heard]

The visit of esteemed Algabid to Kabul in fact destroyed the plan of these circles. The results of His Excellency Algabid's talks with the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan indicate that esteemed Algabid did not have any specific plan. The talks were centered on the setting up of a grand national shura.

Firing a barrage of rockets at the residence of the ICO secretary general clearly indicates two facts relating to current events in the country. The evil Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam coalition has broken its promises; it has violated laws, objectives, and even our national traditions in relation to an outstanding international and Islamic personality. Contrary to their promises of not attacking Kabul, they subjected the ICO secretary general's residence to a hail of rockets.

The arrival of His Excellency Algabid to Kabul has foiled foreign plans. It is correct to say that the order to fire at his residence was issued from abroad. Golboddin, who is the executor of foreign plans in Afghanistan, has implemented foreign countries' orders without even thinking about the commitments he undertook only a few hours ago.

Bangladesh

Police Stop Militants From Marching to U.S. Embassy

BK1407083794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] DHAKA, July 14 (AFP)—Police Thursday [14 July] stopped several thousand militant supporters of an Islamic alliance from marching to the US embassy in Dhaka bearing slogans denouncing a Bangladeshi feminist writer and US President Bill Clinton.

After a brief rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque the leaders of the alliance called off the march 10 kilometers (six miles) from the embassy.

Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen has been in hiding since a court last month issued an arrest warrant against her for outraging Moslem feelings by making a comment about Islam's holy book, the Koran. She has denied blaspheming the holy book.

She is reportedly seeking asylum in the United States.

"Clinton beware, we will peel your skin" and "Hang Taslima Nasreen," the capped and bearded protestors shouted.

The alliance leaders alleged that "imperialist forces" had conspired to uproot Islam from Bangladesh, where 85 percent of its 110 million people are Moslems, and said Washington "should be careful in interfering in Bangladesh's internal matters."

Police sources said the demonstrators had been warned that tough measures would be taken if they broke the police line.

Security was tightened earlier last month around foreign missions following threats to beseige the United States embassy. Security was further beefed-up Thursday.

Later, several leaders were escorted to the embassy in Baridhahra district where they handed in a petition protesting against US interference in the "religious and internal affairs" of Bangladesh.

The Combined Action Committee, grouping 13-Islamic fundamentalist and rightwing parties, and headed by the Khatib or chief cleric of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Moulana Obaidul Huq, is protesting against a US embassy statement which they considered too sympathetic towards Nasreen.

Last month the United States said it took "no position" on Nasreen's writings and respected all faiths, but was "disturbed" by threats of violence against her, including death threats.

President Clinton has "made it clear, the United States stands firmly against the "forces of intolerance," the US statement said, adding that it wanted security for the fugitive writer.

Two extermist groups have put a price on her head and the government recently warned that such practice is punishable by law.

The Dhaka government has asserted that Nasreen is a fugitive and "it is for her to prove her innocence before the court of law" and the Western press were showing "undue interest" in events related to the writer.

Huq said "we want the introduction of blasphemy law to protect our religion.

Concern Expressed Over Clinton Comment

BK1307153594 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 6 Jul 94 p 5

[From the "Giving The Call" column by Charukantha]

[Text] Is the statement made by President Clinton the signal of any imminent danger? Will the soil of Bangladesh be also dyed by the blood of Muslims like that in Kashmir and Bosnia?

The Voice of America in its editorial comment broadcast on June 25 said that President Bill Clinton commenting on the issue of Taslima Nasreen of Bangladesh stated that the United States is opposed to intolerant forces. He emphasized the freedom of expression of those who hold different views and reiterated the pledge of the United States to ensure their security. The officials of the United States in Washington and Dhaka also held talks with the Bangladeshi officials in this regard and informed them of the concern of the United States. The Voice of America further reported that the ambassador of Norway based in New Delhi has been sent to Dhaka with a view to express concern over the security of Taslima Nasreen and ensure that she is permitted to go to Norway next September to participate in a conference of writers.

It is expected that the above incidents would clarify the reasons for which Taslima is not being arrested. From the statement of President Clinton and the concern expressed by the United States it has become evident that under the pretext of the Taslima Nasreen issue a blueprint is being prepared for launching an attack against the "fundamentalists" of Bangladesh.

It is known to all that at present the only ideological rival of the imperialists, the Jews, and the Brahmins is Islam. That is why they have launched naked and desperate attacks against Islam and the Muslims. The greatest advocate of democracy and human rights is the imperialists. Human rights have been violated in Kashmir for the past 47 years, but neither the United States nor the imperialist world have come forward to prevent these violations. The reason behind this is that the people who are being persecuted in Kashmir are Muslims. The United Nations, the United States, and the United Kingdom are shamelessly supplying arms to the Serbs in Bosnia and giving them the time and opportunity to crush the unarmed Bosnians. No question is being raised

regarding the human rights violations of the Bosnians. The reason behind this is that they are Muslims.

The successors of Abraham Lincoln did not see any violation of democracy in Algeria when power was not transferred to the Islamic parties which achieved overwhelming victory in the elections held in that country. The reason behind this is that those who won the elections in that country were pro-Islamic. Nuclear weapons can be produced only by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, India, and others, but Pakistan, Iran, or Iraq cannot do so as they are Muslims. They have decided that there cannot be any democracy or human rights for the Muslims. Democracy and human rights are only for those who are opposed to Islam.

The lesson that experience teaches is that an attack will also be launched on the pro-Islamic forces of Bangladesh if they become strong. This attack may be launched separately by the United States and the imperialist countries on one hand and by India on the other. They may even jointly launch the attack. In this regard there will be an alliance among them and their local agents. During the strike observed in the country on June 30, it was seen that the pro- American, pro-Indian, pro-Russian, pro-Chinese elements were united. The pro-Americans led by Dr. Kamal Hossain, the pro-Indians led by Abdur Razzak, the pro-Russians led by Saifuddin Manik, and the pro-Chinese led by Rashed Khan Menon joined hands and launched attacks on the pro-Islamic forces. They are saying: "Let us first jointly crush Islam. Then we will settle our accounts."

These anti-Islamic forces are also opposed to the present government. Despite this, the government is supporting them and will also do so in future. This is so because the government believes that it cannot continue in power without the support of India and the United States.

The enemies of the Islamic forces are united, but it was seen during the strike which was observed on June 30 that the Islamic forces are themselves divided. During the preparations which were made for the observance of the strike on June 30, provocative statements were made by one Islamic alliance against the other. Though the strike was successful, it seems that the pro-Islamic forces are not willing to come out of the boundaries of their respective beliefs and forge greater unity. They are unable to overcome their personal likes and dislikes. Everyone must have observed that when the forces of the imperialists, or the Jews, or the Brahmins unleash attacks on members of any faith they do not make any distinction between the different sects of that faith. They do not take into consideration the differences which exists between the beliefs of the Muslims of Iran, Iraq, Bosnia, or Algeria. They are of the opinion that anyone who claims to be a Muslim should be attacked. It does not matter whether these Muslims belong to the Shia or Sunni sect or whether they follow the Hanafi or the Hambali system of religious beliefs.

When they launch an attack on Bangladesh, they will not make any discrimination between the followers of Ahale Sunnat, Wahabi, Moudoodi, or Tabliqi [different sects of Islam]. Anyone who wears a cap or has a beard, anyone seen offering prayers, or anyone speaking about Islam would be made the target of their attack. The agents of the imperialists, Jews, and the Brahmins have already identified the Islamic scholars belonging to different sects as fundamentalists and proclaimers of Islamic decrees.

The pro-Islamic forces should see the reality and the imminent danger facing them. The unity which has been forged through the observance of the strike on June 30 should be further strengthened. A strong unity should be forged among the Muslims despite their diverse beliefs and sects. It seems that personal conflicts and likings and dislikings are the main obstacle to this unity rather than the differences which exist among the numerous sects. In Bangladesh, a narrow outlook and pride should be shunned on the issue of giving leadership to the Islamic forces. Islam should be given preference over all other factors. The only objective should be that the rule of Islam must prevail in all spheres of life including the personal, social, and national spheres

Jamaat-e-Islami is the most organized Islamic organization in Bangladesh. Can't this party overcome its pride of being the biggest Islamic party of the country and help forge unity by rejecting the factors over which the other Islamic parties are not willing to unite with it? Why can't the organizers of the successful strike held on June 30, including Maulana Mohiuddin Khan and Mufti Maulana Fazlul Haque Amini, take the initiative of uniting the Islamic parties, organizations, and individuals of this country? Can't Allama Azizul Haq and Pir Saheb Maulana Fazlul Karim play a historic role in this regard? Can't the respected Islamic scholars of this country take any initiative in this regard? The 110 million people of Bangladesh are eagerly waiting to see how the success of the June 30 strike is utilized by the Islamic scholars for realizing their objective. If all the Islamic scholars, parties, organizations, and personalities of this country forge a unity and establish the rule of Islam in the country, then no power on earth can do anything. What could the imperialists, the Jews, and the Brahmins do to the Islamic Republic of Iran by engaging all their arms, media, and agents? What were they able to do to Iraq?

India

Pakistani Treatment of Diplomat Condemned

BK1407090494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, has expressed the hope that Pakistan will consider positively India's offer to talk on implementing the diplomatic code of conduct. In an interview to a news agency, he said it is necessary to avoid any future incidents resulting

in a series of expulsions of diplomats by the two countries. Mr. Srinivasan described Pakistan's treatment of Mr. V.S. Chauhan, attache at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, as brutal and beyond the pale of civilized behavior.

Outcome of U.S. Energy Secretary's Visit Viewed

BK1407123294 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Commentary by Dr. C.K. Bandopadhyaya]

[Text] Signing of a series of agreements at the government as well as private sector levels between India and the United States on Wednesday [13 July] marks the beginning of a new and energetic relation between the two countries. In all 15 agreements were signed by the two sides, highlighting the visit of the American presidential mission led by Energy Secretary Ms. Hazel O'Leary to New Delhi. The energy minister, Mr. N.K. P. Salve, and Ms. O'Leary signed a joint statement of intent for cooperation in the field of energy efficiency. Besides, four memoranda of understanding for collaboration in coal, oil, and renewable energy sectors were also signed as also for periodic consultations between the two sides. The agreements were signed by union ministers in charge of coal, petroleum, nonconventional energy, and environment. As per the agreements, India is to get about $80 million American assistance for programs in the energy sector—$22 million out of this is for a training and management consultation program aimed at improving the efficiency of the electricity supply systems, $19 million have been allocated for a greenhouse gas pollution prevention project, and $25 million for encouraging the Indian industry to adopt environmentally sound practices.

An important outcome of the discussions between the delegations of the two countries is the agreement to set up an Indo-U.S. Subcommission on Sustainable Energy Development. The business communities of the two sides have decided to closely interact for promoting exchange of information on power generation and exchange information periodically. It indicates that India and the United States have a good scope of furthering cooperation in the energy sector. India has promised major structural changes in the power sector to give a fresh dynamism for foreign investment and adoption of latest technology.

In fact, powerful delegation from the U.S. soon after Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit in May last is symbolic of a new atmosphere of fostering closer relationship with the U.S. India is simply too important to be ignored by the USA. One quarter of the world's population lives in South Asia and a large number of them in India. India is the world's biggest democracy and the second largest English-speaking country with the fifth largest economy, the fourth largest army, the third largest scientific and technical community, and the second largest number of software professionals.

Fortunately, the two countries are coming closer especially after liberalization of Indian economy beginning in 1991. In a far-reaching program of economic reforms, government has lowered trade barriers, eliminated government monopoly, slashed taxes, encouraged foreign investment, opened the banking sector and capital markets, and made its currency convertible. The results have been dramatic growth in GDP, inflation falling to about 10 percent, foreign investment is pouring into the country, and foreign currency reserves have gone up to $16 billion. What India now looks for is investment in infrastructure so that a strong base for the industrial growth and trade can be developed. In infrastructure—especially in energy area—India has been looking forward for investment in a big way.

The visit of the high-level 46-member U.S. delegation has opened new vistas of cooperation in the area of energy. Millions of dollars in business opportunities, which is expected to result from the visit, is considered to wipe out the shortfall of 5000 megawatts a year in India's power generation. There is a lot of scope for joint ventures in the field of energy utilization and improving energy efficiency both in India and the Third World countries. Mr. Narasimha Rao has done the right thing by ensuring the visiting delegation that possible measures will be taken to sort out problems and remove bottlenecks in the partnership in the energy sector. Going by the discussions, India is likely to witness a spurt of investment from American oil majors also, who are eager to invest in India with technology transfer in view of keen competition and power war within their country.

Economy's 'Great Importance' to U.S. Firms Seen

BK0507094394 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 2 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Practical Imperative"]

[Text] The U.S. decision not to impose the restrictive clause of the Super 301 law on India is tantamount to publicly accepting the imperative need for Indian cooperation—along with that of China—to ensure the health of the U.S. economy. Recently, despite political opposition, the Clinton administration granted special trade status to China. This was even though, according to the prevalent American laws and political beliefs, far from receiving special trade status China should have been penalized under the Super 301 law. The basic purpose of this punitive law is to penalize countries whose policies and trade laws go against U.S. interests. China so far has only partially accepted the market system and the Chinese market has yet to open fully to foreign companies. China is still not part of the GATT agreement. Because of internal pressure on the American economy, however, it became imperative for the Clinton administration to increase exports. Hence the Clinton administration thought it prudent to work according to economic priorities rather than risking billions of dollars in U.S. companies' dealings with China to follow its political prejudices. The failure to impose the 301 law on India reveals

a similar helplessness on the part of the Clinton administration. Ever since India signed the GATT agreement and adopted a liberalization policy that favors the open market system, Indian markets have offered lucrative prospects to foreign companies. These companies are now showing a keen interest in investing in them. The belief that investing in India not only ensures good profits but trade security as well has quickly gained currency in the international market. In matters of high technology, investing in India is very lucrative because under the Indian Government's new economic policy important technical sectors such as electronics and communications are open to investment by foreign capital.

Thus the Indian market has assumed great importance in the eyes of U.S. companies. Because Europe and Japan provide a tough challenge in free market competition, U.S. companies have demanded that their government not take any steps that would set them back in this competition vis-a-vis the other industrial countries. Even at the political level, the U.S. Administration realized that in some cases India would never agree to alter its basic policies. For instance, India is not prepared to budge even a millimeter from its declared policies on the issues of Kashmir and the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. Nor will it change its policy of pursuingg a missile program. The continuous exertion of pressure on India might end up pushing Indo-U.S. cooperation into the background. Under current circumstances the United States can ill-afford to hold the Super 301 sword over India's head. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor told reporters that with India seeking to formulate laws regarding intellectual property rights and taking the necessary steps to adopt the international patent system, the United States doesn't want to create obstacles to new reforms in India. Hence the decision not to invoke the 301 law on India.

This change in U.S. policy signifies India's rising importance in the international industrial sector. This assessment of India's good economic potential is not confined to the United States. Similar reactions were expressed during the India Development Forum meeting in Paris. The forum decided to give $6 billion worth of aid to India this year. Many members of this international financial body—representing the rich countries of the world—have agreed not only that the present Indian policy is good but that its implementation is also very prudent.

According to (Hubert Neeca), director of the Asia Division [not further specified], India's achievements are apparent in two distinct fields. It has introduced basic and fundamental reforms in its economic and legal structures and has given impetus to its economy. In fact, to the industrial countries, it is a very significant achievement that the adoption of a market-oriented economic system has not caused any large-scale chaos in the economy. By comparison, Russia has suffered great disturbances. Clearly, India's economic structure was not as artificial as the Soviet Union's. As a matter of fact, many elements of the market system were already in place in India. India, a country struggling for its very survival three years ago because of the depletion of its foreign currency reserves, now has foreign exchange reserves of $16 billion. Hence the belief of the industrialized countries that India could become an industrial power.

But the apparent enthusiasm of the industrialized countries is not generated so much by feelings of good will as by their desire to share in the Indian market. Out of the $6 billion aid package, $2.4 billion is on a bilateral basis, with Japan as the largest contributor. The rest of the aid is multilateral; that is, it is being contributed jointly by many countries. In this context it is necessary to understand that most of this help is in the form of the foreign loans. India has already expressed its desire—which was reiterated by the Indian representative in Paris, Mr. Ahluwalia—to decrease this level of aid progressively. So far, though, no steps have been taken that might engender hope and confidence in this regard. The health of any country's economy depends on its capacity to procure means and resources and not on its ability to secure foreign loans in times of need.

U.S. Republican Party Report on Terrorism Welcomed

BK0507101494 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 30 Jun 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Islamic Fundamentalism and Terrorism"]

[Text] India no longer needs to prove Pakistan's nefarious role in stoking the fires of the Kashmir problem, for it has become quite evident. The United States is well aware of this fact but has been unable to declare Pakistan a country that supports terrorism because of certain political constraints. But on 22 June, Republican U.S. Congressman Bill McCollum produced a report prepared by his party. The report revealed certain facts that proved to be startling disclosures, not just for India but also for the United States, and in the larger sense the peace-loving world. The facts are startling because they disclose that the reins of terrorism are slipping from Pakistan's hands into those of an Islamic fundamentalist group emerging in Central Asia and North Africa. This group is nurturing the subversive seeds of secessionism all the way from Kashmir to the countries of America and Europe. The roots of Islamic fundamentalism are spreading into Sudan, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, and the Western countries as well as Afghanistan and Kashmir. The report also says the group was in some form or another involved in the explosions at the World Trade Center in New York as well as in Bombay and Cairo. Pakistan is now very cleverly turning these Islamic terrorists loose on Kashmir in the name of jihad, or "holy" war. If these hired terrorists can be planted in Kashmir on Pakistan's whim, what guarantee is there that another country will not use them tomorrow against Europe or America? Moreover, even though they are Muslim countries, Egypt, Syria, and Tunisia are also becoming the targets of these fundamentalists.

It appears that the United States is gradually coming to realize the gravity of the problem. This is the reason why Senator Bill Bradley, speaking on the issue of a plebiscite in Kashmir, warned that this menacing challenge may not remain confined to India but could also pose a danger to countries in Europe and America. Now this important Republican Party report clearly indicates that, aided by the Islamic countries of the Central Asia, the scourge of terrorism is not likely to be confined to Kashmir. On the contrary, it is likely to become more gruesome every day. These Islamic terrorists, realizing the sensitive geographical position and the strategic importance of Kashmir, want to pluck Kashmir away from India to enhance their importance in the eyes of their bigoted followers. The report also indicates that Pakistan considers it extremely vital to "liberate"—or possess—Kashmir in order to distract its own people from its internal problems, to continue to receive support from bigoted elements within the country, and to gain access to the markets of the Middle Eastern countries through the conduit of this fundamentalist group. These intentions show how low Pakistan will stoop to fulfill its vile ambitions. India should issue an unambiguous warning to those Islamic countries that are watering the roots of this macabre terrorism.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Antidumping Practices

BK2906132194 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 23 Jun 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Trade Tantrums"]

[Text] If there was ever any doubt regarding the zeal of the US in prising open developing country markets, it should have been set at rest by the thundering declaration of the US Trade Representative, Mr. Mickey Kantor, before the US Senate Commerce Committee last week, that despite the new GATT agreement, Section 301 of the US Trade Law providing for unilateral imposition of sanctions will be 'even more effective than it has been in the past in addressing foreign unfair trade practices'. On this matter, the thinking of many other rich countries is not dissimilar, though the US is chivalrously taking the rap for them by sticking its neck out. Along with the battering of the doors of developing country markets, the industrial countries have been indicted by no less an agency than the United Nations Development Programme for placing severe restrictions on the imports of goods from their developing brethren, especially clothing, textiles, footwear, light manufactured items and processed primary commodities—all in pursuit of their own notions of fair trade.

Much of the fixation about fair trade—which was aptly described by Fortune some time ago as 'free trade's reasonable sounding evil cousin'—and the insidious and impenetrable regime of anti-dumping laws and other non-tariff barriers erected by them are rooted in an irrational fear of cut-rate imports from developing countries flooding their markets and causing job losses and business bankruptcies. The proportion of developing country exports to the 24 Industrial nations falling foul of such barriers exceeds 20 per cent, with a total value far outrunning the quantum ($ 50 billions) of net official aid.

The rich nations, with the US in the van, tirelessly sought and fought throughout the Uruguay Round Negotiations to head off demands by developing countries for greater market access to products in which they enjoyed undoubted comparative advantage. The title of the article, 'Developed Nations Want Poor Countries To Succeed on Trade, but Not Too Much' that appeared in The Wall Street Journal when the end game was being played out at GATT, elegantly captured the prevailing mood.

To nobody's surprise, the US is the most glaring and determined example by far of rear guard action against goods and products of industrialising nations. True to the nature of the open society that it is, its own academia and media have been the first to denounce the way anti-dumping laws are administered as a travesty of fairness. Indeed, the US has been called 'a world champion prosecutor of dumping cases' launched against virtually any foreign made product priced below what a domestic competitor charges, and deemed cheaper in the US than in its home market. The finding to this effect rests mostly on the data furnished by the US companies seeking protection; the computation of the price of the offending goods tilts unduly in support of the complainants' claims.

According to a recent study made by a former senior researcher with the International Trade Commission, the number of successful anti-dumping actions, so called, brought by US industries more than doubled in the 1980s, in which the penalties levied amounted to more than 10 per cent of all American imports, a three-fold increase in the same period. An absurd offshoot of this mania carried to excess is that in the case of import of silicon from China in 1990, the US consumers paid $ 723,000 for each of the 32 jobs saved by slapping a 139.5 per cent duty. Since the mid-1980s, some 40 other nations, modelling their laws on those of the US, have joined the fray, resulting in the number of dumping complaints crossing 2000. So much so, as some wag put it, "antidumping laws have become one of America's leading exports"

However, there are, of late, encouraging signs of the dawning of good sense. A paper prepared by a think tank for the consideration of the 24 rich member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has categorically hailed as 'unfair' the canard that developing country imports are the cause of affluent country unemployment. Close on its heels comes the confident assertion of the chairperson of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, Ms. Laura D'Andrea Tyson that anti-dumping duties imposed on low-priced imports into the US do not serve to protect American companies, and warning that the US

itself is likely to become the largest target for anti-dumping actions. Both statements are from prestigious sources of high credentials, and must make the US, and countries similarly disposed, to pause and ponder.

Ray Likely To Be Reappointed Ambassador To U.S.

BK0307125594 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 28 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, June 27— Perhaps it will not be possible for Sidhartha Shankar Ray to leave the United States and 'return home.' Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao wants to keep him there as India's ambassador to the United States for a term of another two years. The prime minister has already conveyed his desire to Mr. Sidhartha, but the latter has not yet made any decision on the matter. He will come to the country during the Puja festival, to be held in October. At that time he will make a final decision on this issue. Today, the prime minister had a one and a half hour talk with Mr. Sidhartha on the relationship between India and the United States. Home Affairs Minister S.B. Chavan and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also held meetings with him.

Mr. Sidhartha has already been informed that the prime minister wants him to continue in his present capacity in the United States. New Delhi feels that present bilateral ties with the United States are 'steadily improving.' Hence, 'it would not be judicious' to send a new person. It would be proper to keep the person who has been managing the situation there for the past two years. Otherwise, the new person who will be posted there will have to start everything afresh. A section of officials of the South Block admit that during the time when Mr. Sidhartha was posted to Washington the bilateral relationship between two countries received a severe jolt due to the Babri Mosque incident. This communal controversy in the country at the time when a new government was in power made the bilateral relationship between these two countries a bit complex. This difficult situation has been gradually overcome, and now the relationship between the two countries has evened to a great extent. This has become evident by the successful visit of the prime minister to the United States. The prime minister feels that under these circumstances it would be a diplomatic blunder to send a new ambassador to the United States. For this reason, the issue of keeping Mr. Sidhartha there for a term of another two years is under consideration.

Mr. Sidhartha did not want to become involved in this controversy. When he was questioned tonight regarding this issue, he replied: "It is still very far off. I didn't hold any talks with the prime minister on this issue. I will come to Calcutta during the time of Puja festival. We will find out at that time. I personally want to come back". Mr. Sidhartha did not allude to the issue of his reappointment, but it has been learned from the prime minister's secretariat that he has told Mr. Narasimha Rao that the wishes of the prime minister will be honored.

If this happens, then Mr. Sidhartha will be the ambassador of India to the United States for another term of two years starting in November. Though he arrived in Washington in the month of October, he took over as ambassador on November 29.

Rao Visit Said To Open 'New Chapter' in Russian Ties

BK0507111994 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 2 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Reviving the Old Friendship Again"]

[Text] Whenever the Indian prime minister or a senior government leader used to go to Russia in the past, the trip would always generate ripples of complacency signifying that our leader was visiting our sincerest well-wisher and dearest friend. But Prime Minister Rao's latest visit to Russia did nothing of the sort. The reason is apparent—the end of the Cold War has enhanced the importance and relevance of the United States in the world, while the once-mighty Soviet Union has collapsed and there is no way that its heir, Russia, can really be called its successor or alternative. Even our prime minister chose to visit the United States first after assuming his august office, and the consequences of that visit generated tremendous interest among the Indian public. Now Russia, which had neglected India and tried to develop closer ties with the West, has realized India's growing importance.

This is why a new chapter is enthusiastically being added to the old Indo-Soviet entente, which is now quickly emerging as an alternative to the earlier alliance. The leaders of both countries are well aware that their countries are both nation-states whose societies are composed of a multitude of religious, cultural, and linguistic groups. Both are confronting strikingly similar problems. The Narasimha Rao-Boris Yeltsin summit was especially important because both countries identified their problems and, through the Moscow Declaration, stressed the need to discourage secessionist tendencies. The declaration urges all nations to respect the territorial integrity of countries with multiethnic societies and not try to create crises in such countries. Such multiracial countries are often subject to outside interference in the name of human rights. The Moscow Declaration highlights this aspect in particular. Narasimha Rao's Moscow visit and the Moscow Declaration may not be historic, but they clearly show the serious intention of both countries to lay a constructive new foundation for their mutual relations with a full awareness of their individual realities.

The collapse of the Soviet Union seriously affected India's economic and trade relations with Russia. Now both countries want to infuse these ties with renewed vigor. Russia's agreement to install a joint unit in India to manufacture spare parts and other instruments

needed to repair Russian bombers was the single greatest achievement resulting from Prime Minister Rao's trip to Russia. This will also make it easier for other countries with Russian planes to have repairs made conveniently. Every year India has to repay 30 billion rupees worth of debt to Russia. Russia had expressed its desire to use this money to run joint ventures in sectors dealing with basic needs, such as road construction and so forth. An understanding has been reached on this. Russia has agreed to India's demand for a 180-day credit facility for Russian importers willing to buy Indian goods with Russian money. This will enhance Indian exports to Russia and open Russian markets wide to Indian goods. One complex issue is the Russian desire to auction off rupees received from India in repayment for earlier loans. India vehemently opposes this; it would not only insult India but would also destabilize Indian exports. It is not known whether the two sides discussed the rupee-ruble exchange rate during the trip. Despite the ruble being cheaper than the rupee in international markets, we have to shell out 19.5 rupees and in certain cases 31.5 rupees for one ruble because of prior commitments. This exchange rate is injurious to Indian interests and ought to be scrapped or made more logical. Narasimha Rao's trip to Russia did result in the signing of two political declarations and nine agreements, which it is hoped will provide new impetus to Indo-Russian relations.

Editorial Views Economic Agreements With Russia

BK0607153994 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 4 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Now Russia Too"]

[Text] According to an official of the Indian delegation, the prime minister's visit to Russia and the agreements concluded in the fields of defense and economy are the right steps taken at the right time. However, these agreements should have been signed a long time ago according to former Soviet President Gorbachev, who attended the ceremony held at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Gorbachev's observations make sense in the respect that for about a year the Indian Government had no clue as to what type of political and economic ties it wanted with Moscow. The Indian Government alone should not be blamed for this, because the Russian authorities themselves showed no particular enthusiasm to forge new close links with India. Due to the rapidly changing situation in Russia, Boris Yeltsin believed that seeking Western assistance was the only right way to improve the Russian economy. The experiences of the past two years, however, have made the Russian leaders wiser and they now know about the power equation of the world. Russia now realizes that the journey to join the West is not that easy. The goal, which looked so simple, is in reality a difficult one. Continuing on this path would have estranged the East irrevocably, hence quite a change in the attitude of Russians powers-that-be of ignoring the East. A close scrutiny of its priorities made Russia realize the need to reestablish ties with the East.

The framework of the special Soviet-Indian relations in the spheres of economy and defense was destroyed with the collapse of the Soviet Union, but we inherited some serious problems from this special relationship. Our defense forces had become dependent on the Russian armory for equipment and weapons. This source, however, suddenly seemed to dry up due to the breakup of the Soviet Union and the disarmament trend. It became difficult not only to get Russian weapons, but a problem of spare parts for the acquired Russian arms also developed. Obviously, this figured first in our list of priorities. This, however, was not a priority for the Russians. That is why it was imperative to seek a source to attract Russia's attention. The proposal of a joint India-Russian company is one such source. This company will provide facilities for the maintenance and repair of Russian weapons. Its services could also be sold to those countries which use Russian equipment. Since this venture is based on commercial lines, Russia also will have an economic interest in it. New avenues are being explored for trade exchanges. For example, Russia needs Indian agriculture products, but it does not want to enter into any long-term agreement. According to the Russian leaders, they will buy tea, coffee, and other such items as and when the need arises, but it should be considered a success by Indian negotiators that Russia now has agreed to enter into a three-year agreement to import these commodities.

One more problem from the Soviet era could not be solved during the prime minister's visit. The Indian Government had accepted an unrealistic rupee-ruble exchange rate forcing it to repay heavy debts for Russian equipment imported earlier. It was not expected to fix a realistic exchange rate, but the Indian delegation failed to convince Russians to cancel their plan to auction at a reduced rate the Indian currency worth three billion rupees kept with the Reserve Bank of India as Russian debt. Although Russia has the right to use this sum as they desire, the auction of the Indian currency at a reduced rate will adversely affect the reputation of rupee. The only satisfaction comes from the promise the Russians made that the auction will be carried out in such a way that it does not cause much harm to India. The correct path to solve such issues is through a balanced trade system. It is necessary for the Indian Government proficiently to use the facilities available through various agreements.

Security Forces To Target Foreign Mercenaries

BK0707131794 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 3 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by T.R. Ramachandran]

[Text] New Delhi, July 2—Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are planning to target the foreign mercenaries operating in the Valley and the mountainous and wooded Doda district to explode the myth of their invincibility.

In limited operations thus far against the foreign mercenaries in the troubled border State, the security forces have found that the Afghans and Pakistanis are no battle scarred veterans as projected by their masters across the border.

Authoritative sources said in calculated forays against the foreign mercenaries over the last two months more than 25 Afghan nationals and 10 Pakistanis have been killed.

The induction of foreign mercenaries in Kashmir came to light in 1991 and their numbers, particularly the Afghans and Pakistanis, has swelled since then. In the last three and a half years, 88 Afghan nationals and 51 Pakistanis have been killed by security forces in various encounters.

Interestingly, a minuscule complement of mercenaries from Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Egypt had also infiltrated into Kashmir and found the heat too much for their liking. The presence of mercenaries from these countries is now negligible or virtually non-existent.

The sources placed the figure of foreign mercenaries in the Valley and those who have traversed to Doda district for refuge as anywhere between 1000 and 1500. Most of these mercenaries belonged to the Harkat-ul-Ansar, a militant outfit headquartered in Islamabad. The branch of Harkat-ul-Ansar at Muzaffarabad controls the operations in Kashmir.

The pro-Pak Hizbul Mujahideen also has a number of foreign mercenaries in its ranks. According to reports reaching here, about 250 of them are overseeing the Hizbul Mujahideen's continued attempts to whip up frenzy in the Valley.

Sources claimed the foreign mercenaries especially the Afghans are feeling frustrated because in their own country they were fighting the erstwhile Soviet forces. Besides, most of them are conscripts and had no heart in the operations in Kashmir. And taking on the might of the security forces was having a demoralising effect on them.

Information gleaned from various agencies showed that Pakistan wants to set up another organisation in the Valley as a rival to the Hizbul Mujahideen which was slipping badly in implementing the brief handed down by its masters. Sources said nearly 150 foreign mercenaries have been brought together under the umbrella of Al Barq.

Sources acknowledged that the experience of the security forces was that the foreign mercenaries operating in Kashmir were tougher than those in other militant groups. At the same time in the face of a determined onslaught by the security forces these foreign mercenaries have either got killed or surrendered.

Interrogation of these foreign mercenaries in the Valley has brought to the fore their disillusionment. This was because of various factors including the lack of support from the local people and the security forces beefing up its operations against the militants with the onset of summer.

Faced with a difficult situation, a sizeable number of foreign mercenaries and activists of other militant outfits in the Valley crossed the passes and moved to far-flung Doda district hoping it would provide a safe haven for some time. These militants were now feeling entrapped as the security forces had cut off the rear.

Sources stressed it was because of this scenario that the Army formations in Kashmir felt it was not necessary for the security forces to use the Air Force against the foreign mercenaries and other militants. The present strategy, in their opinion, might prove to be the end of the road for the foreign mercenaries in the next few months.

The report of the task force on terrorism of the Republican Party in the US Congress has alluded to thousands of foreign mercenaries still being based in Pakistan as they were not wanted in their own countries. Clearly, the countries from where the mercenaries hailed did not want trouble in their own land and appeared keen to do anything to keep these elements out of their shores.

Islamabad was trying to pressurise these Governments into supporting Pakistan and considering the Kashmir issue as a Jihad. Islamabad has reportedly threatened that if sufficient funds were not forthcoming from these countries whose mercenaries it was harbouring then it would push them across the border to Kashmir.

Ministry Criticized for Arms Imports Through Agents

BK0707135094 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] New Delhi—The Defence Ministry, in gross violation of Government instructions, has persisted with practice of routing select arms imports through agents, according to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

The CAG, holding the Ministry directly responsible, has found that it decided to involve an Indian agent for supply of engine spares for Coast Guard ships, even when the cost indicated, was 44 per cent more than the price of spares procured directly from the manufacturer.

Although the price quoted by the manufacturer was cheaper by Rs [rupees] 7 lakh, a price negotiation committee of the Ministry recommended acceptance of the middleman's offer in October 1992, less than six months after Coast Guard headquarters had made the proposal for procurement of 10 sets of ship spares. The order placed on the agent was worth Rs 3 crore, while the manufacturer was willing to supply the spares directly at Rs 2.93 crore.

The CAG, charged that "award of the supply order to the Indian agent was against the letter and spirit of Government instructions issued initially in September 1977 and further clarified in January 1989 which explicitly stated that Indian agents should not be employed where it was possible to secure supplies on reasonable terms without the intervention of agents direct from the manufacturer of the required items".

Rejecting the Ministry's defence stated in December 1993 that the "Indian firm was the authorised service partner of the manufacturer", the CAG said that the manufacturer had supplied similar spares against two orders placed in 1989. In addition, in the controversial 1992 order which went to the agent, the manufacturer had specifically quoted his rates.

The argument advanced by the Ministry, that the seemingly cheaper proposal of the manufacturer did not include add-ons like freight, insurance and packing was also dismissed as "not tenable" by the CAG. The contract value quoted by the manufacturer included packing and FOB [freight on board] charges, it said.

Iran

Likelihood of U.S. Military Action in Haiti Viewed

LD1307213194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2005 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After the expulsion of the United Nations by the military rulers of Haiti, U.S. President Bill Clinton announced: This action will definitely justify Washington's resorting to military action; a military measure should not be ruled out.

On Monday, Haitian authorities ordered the UN observers to leave Haitian soil by this morning. After that action the UN Security Council and the Latin American states condemned the Haitian military authorities' decision, called it provocative, and said that it would exacerbate the crisis in that country. The Security Council also asserted that the Haitian military authorities are responsible for the security and safety of the UN observers.

The Security Council's concern is prompted by the fact that the United States and the OAS have so far made no decision regarding the departure of the 104 civilians who are responsible for observing human rights in Haiti. Statements are issued and condemnations are announced, while the United States' efforts as the leader of operations and the UN efforts to reinstate Aristide, the deposed Haitian president, have so far proved unsuccessful. Before that the UN Security Council implemented numerous resolutions against Haiti concerning oil, arms, and trade embargoes. Furthermore, the United States and other states have separately imposed financial, aviation, and visa sanctions against Haitian military rulers and police. The effects of those sanctions and the heavy pressure caused by economic damage have, however, imposed dreadful hardship on the poor and oppressed people of that country, rather than inflict serious damage on the military.

Thus it becomes clear that in the implementation of sanctions by the United Nations and in the military aggression by the United States the priority is the return to power of the deposed president, even at the expense of the lives of human beings. The United States' renewed threat to resort to military action, also, is made without taking into account the primary rights of the Haitian people; its purpose is merely to secure United States' interests in the region. U.S. military aggression is a test which has proved disappointing for that country on numerous occasions in the past.

Majles Deputies Interviewed on Trade With U.S.

NC1307161694 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[From the parliamentary desk]

[Excerpts] Three members of the Foreign Relations Committee [FRC] of the Islamic Majles expressed their opinions on trade relations with the United States.

Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani, who is the Tehran deputy and member of the FRC, spoke to our correspondent: We have a certain volume of trade exchanges with the United States through our private sector. The question that arises is: How is it possible that we should have trade relations to this extent with a country with which we do not have political relations and against which we are shouting all these slogans? Do these relations conform with our political relations or not? The answer is no.

However, since the private sector in the country is free and has imported substandard U.S. products through middlemen, I believe that what has occurred is not representative of the policies advocated by the government.

He added: As to whether trade relations with the United States are beneficial or not is another issue. The question should be worded thus: Do we want commercial relations to be a precursor to political relations, or not? Or that we should have nothing to do with political relations? When relations are only commercial and no attention is paid to the political dimensions, then we should only think in the economic context. We should see where goods are less expensive and purchase them from there.

If the issue of cohesive policy making arises and if we have to merge our economic policy with our cultural policy and political relations, then the issue is different.

Referring to the largest volume of trade with the United States at present, he said: I have heard different figures regarding the trade exchanges with the United States, such as $1.8 billion and $6 billion. Our official government slogans are not in favor of political relations with the United States. Thus, the increase in imports of U.S. goods and our trade relations are not in conformity with our political slogans.

In answer to a question on imports of U.S. consumer goods, Raja'i-Khorasani said: In my opinion, we should not import consumer goods from anywhere, not even from Turkey. Substandard Turkish fabrics and worthless U.S. products are just as bad. What difference does it make? We should change our consumer habits so that the need for foreign goods is eliminated.

The Hamadan deputy Jalal Sadatian, who is also an FRC member, said: It appears that our current relations with the United States have transcended our needs. We should only have restricted them to goods that are not available elsewhere. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Majid Naderi, the deputy of Bo'in-Zahra' and Avaj, who is also a member of the FRC, said: In modern parlance, some countries do have dealings with other countries and on occasion, the factor of lower prices is important. If we need something, we purchase it where it is available more cheaply. Or at times we need spare parts for some products and we are forced to procure them from the United States.

Responding to a question on whether economic relations with the United States are not a precursor to diplomatic relations, he said: No. This is because economic relations with the United States and other colonialist countries existed even in the time of his eminence, the imam. Even now our great leader has clarified that as long as the United States has a domineering and colonialist posture, we will not have diplomatic relations with it. [passage omitted]

Majles Deputies Interviewed on Ties With Egypt

NC1307182194 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[From the news desk]

[Text] In view of the sensitive role played by Egypt among the Arab Middle Eastern and North Africa countries and its desire to forge economic, political, and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the strengthening and broadening of relations between these two countries is of immense importance.

This was stated by Dr. Raja'i-Khorasani, member of the Foreign Relations Committee [FRC] of the Islamic Majles' and secretary of the Majles Human Rights Committee in his interview with the ABRAR correspondent. He added: Egypt is one of the important countries in the Islamic world which is playing a decisive role in the propagation of Islamic culture. Therefore, relations with this country should be increased and strengthened.

Referring to one of the obstacles in the path of progress in relations between the two countries, he mentioned Egypt's stance on Palestine and added: Our wish is that Egypt should join the ranks of the serious opponents of the Zionist regime's aggression, but unfortunately this is not so.

The secretary of the Majles Human Rights Committee stressed: Progress in the relations between the two countries is of considerable importance in the long term for us as well as for Egypt. In addition, we should have first class and cordial relations with all Islamic countries, including Egypt.

The member of the FRC referred to the recent visit by the Iranian delegation to Egypt and said: The presence of an Iranian delegation at the Nonaligned Movement session was not only of special importance in itself, but it also yielded positive and decisive results for us. Prior to this visit, we were concerned that the foreign minister would not be given free rein regarding bilateral relations. Fortunately, this was also correctly perceived by our high-level officials and even Dr. Velayati adopted a very appropriate approach in conformity with our principles of "honor, wisdom, and expediency" in his meetings with the Egyptian officials as regards this crucial obligation. Even the Egyptian foreign minister, who is considered our friend, warmly welcomed Dr. Velayati and his accompanying delegation.

In conclusion, the Tehran Majles deputy stressed the success of this visit and expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would considerably expand in the future.

The Shiraz Majles Deputy Sholeh-Sa'di, who is also a member of the FRC, said: One of the main axes of our foreign policy is to strengthen relations with Islamic and Third World countries, and Egypt falls into this category. Therefore, strengthening relations with that country has been, and is, of special importance for us.

Regarding Egypt's closeness to Israel and its pressure on the Islamic elements in the country, he described them as the two factors deterring mutual relations, and added: If these two problems were resolved, there would be no other obstacle in the path of our relations with Egypt.

Referring to the fact that there would be changes in Egypt in the near future, the FRC member added: We have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Egypt or any other country. Egypt also knows that Iran plays an important and sensitive role in the region and in the world and its officials as well believe that their interests are linked to the improvement of their relations with Iran. Therefore, the possibility of the normalization of relations between the two countries should not be unexpected and one can have a positive outlook on the subject.

The Shiraz Majles deputy described the recent visit by the Iranian delegation to Cairo as positive and said: As

an Islamic country with a rich culture and bright historical past, Egypt is considered an important and sensitive country for us. We should strive to eliminate the difficulties in the path of bilateral relations and to return them to a normal level.

Hamadan Majles Deputy Sadatian, who is also a member of the FRC, commented on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt and said: The long-standing cultural and Islamic antecedents of this country and the enthusiasm on the part of the Egyptian echelons to forge relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran demand that we expand and strengthen our relations with Egypt.

He mentioned Egypt's stance on the Zionist regime and its overt aggression against the Muslim countries of the region as the two main impediments to diplomatic relations between the two countries, and said: If these two factors were eliminated, all other issues could be resolved.

The FRC member commented on the successful visit by Dr. Velayati and his accompanying delegation to Egypt, and said: At that session, Iran was the star, as it raised important issues that bolstered its stature in the world. For example, one of the issues was whether after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, there was any need for a Nonaligned Movement or not. This received an affirmative vote at the session, which gave an independent identity to the Third World, a fact that was mostly due to the activities of the Iranian delegation at that session.

ABRAR Lauds China's Diplomacy Toward West

NC1307132094 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Beijing and the Diplomacy of Power"]

[Text] Yesterday China's premier arrived in Bonn at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation for a one-week visit.

During this visit, Li Peng is supposed to meet and talk with the German president, chancellor, and foreign minister. The Chinese premier's visit to Germany following a similar visit to Austria shows China's renewed efforts to further its accord with a united Europe. China is considered to be the most successful socialist pattern since the Cold War, with its rising economic growth. It is putting its potential and existing capabilities to work in an effort to further expand its relations with Europe.

China is a neighbor of Japan and America in the Pacific and very well understands the post-Cold War developments and the changes that have taken place since the disintegration of the former Soviet union. That is why it maintains good enough relations with America to compel the Europeans to make concessions as testimony of their friendship with China.

The important point for many political observers is the way China implements this policy, especially since Beijing:

—still is run by the Communist Party;
—does not give in on human rights, a topic so belabored by the United States, but continues on its own course;
—officially supports North Korea vis-a-vis the United States and South Korea in the Korean issue;
—supports independence-seeking and even anti-U.S. countries in southeast Asia and in Indochina.

Therefore, China excels over its rivals in world developments. In order to be a world leader, Beijing has adopted a "man to man" [preceding three words in English] policy. In other words, if America names a country as its enemy, China immediately attempts to establish friendly relations with that country. When the United States is enraged over this move, Beijing speaks about limiting U.S. access to its markets and puts so much pressure on the White House through U.S. companies that the latter has no alternative but to retreat or to wait and see what happens. This alert policy is also coupled with friendship with a growing Europe and with political maturity.

Therefore, by taking advantage of some developments, Beijing has forced many of the powerful to halt or to enter into a partnership with it. Under such conditions, Europe is a trump card, and Germany constitutes one of Europe's most prominent areas.

With such diplomacy, the Chinese have played a powerful and subtle game which is more like a classroom—a classroom in which those countries that want to enter the 21st Century club are taught the rules of the game and learn how to make the best use of what they have and to remain powerful.

UK's Partisan Support in Northern Ireland Seen

LD1307222694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2010 GMT 13 Jul 94

["Political commentary"]

[Text] Religious unity between the Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, despite various efforts, has not yet been realized.

Apart from old hostilities between the two religious groups, many other factors have prevented a rapprochement between the two sides. The policies adopted by Britain are among the most significant of these factors, particularly its misuse of religious differences according to the time and circumstance.

A clear and fresh example of such policies and misuse can be seen in the demonstrations and celebrations that took place in Northern Ireland on 12 July. The demonstrations and celebrations, held ostensibly to mark the anniversary of the Protestants' victory against the Catholics 304 years ago, were secretly following London's political motives for consolidating its position in Northern Ireland. In fact, in order to achieve its political

objectives, it was Britain who encouraged the Protestants to hold victory celebrations more than 300 years after the battle against the Catholics. While there is not much reason for holding those celebrations after such a long time, and if there were no adverse propaganda, it would have been forgotten. The London government welcomes such celebrations since it is intent on somehow suppressing the Irish independence-seekers as well as offering justification for its continued domination over Ireland. In fact, the presence of thousands of British police and the putting of 30,000 security forces on alert during the Protestants' victory celebrations not only failed to be seen as a cover for London's principal objectives, but also indirectly revealed Britain's creation of sectarian discord.

It is clear that the extensive presence of British forces, under the pretext of preventing sectarian conflicts between the Catholics and Protestants, was carried out with the intention of endorsing the need for the presence of Britain in Northern Ireland. At the same time, it speaks of the intensification of the sectarian disputes between the Catholics and Protestants, disputes which automatically increase because of Britain's mysterious support for one side in the dispute.

DPRK Envoy Urges Iran To Strengthen Strategic Ties

LD1407101494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi visited the North Korean embassy in Tehran this morning to pay his respects to the late leader of North Korea. After signing the book of condolences, Habibi offered condolences to the North Korean government and nation on the demise of Kim Il-song.

The North Korean ambassador in Tehran expressed gratitude for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's sympathy with the nation and government of North Korea. He expressed hope that the two countries' strategic friendship on the joint front against imperialism will be further strengthened.

Mr Habibi referred to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran and North Korea are among the few countries to have stood up against U.S. imperialism without foreign backing and by relying on their own nation. He expressed hope that the new leader of North Korea Kim Chong-il will continue the path of that country's late leader.

Conflicting Pressures Said Forcing Jordan Into Talks

NC1407140194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] As you heard on the news, Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood has condemned the Jordanian Government for holding talks with the Zionist regime, describing this as a reward for the Zionist regime's aggressions. Yesterday preliminary talks were held between the Zionist regime and Jordan in a border region inside Jordan, the objective of which was said to be to prepare for their high-level meeting and talks next week.

The new overtures in Jordan's diplomacy of compromising with the Zionist regime started four days ago with remarks by King Husayn that he is ready to meet with the highest-ranking officials of the Zionist regime, particularly Prime Minister Rabin. The remarks, made in the Jordanian parliament, are actually an effort to break psychological and political barriers in the talks with the Zionist regime.

Nevertheless, in a bid to quiet public opinion in Jordan, the Jordanian prime minister ruled out signing a separate peace pact with the occupying regime and said that the current talks are merely an effort to find solutions to the problems between Jordan and the Zionist regime, particularly the fate of about 1.5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Currently the Jordanian government is facing two strong pressures, from within and without. The first is pressure from the United States, which is exploiting Jordan's financial and economic weakness and its heavy foreign debt to rapidly push this regime toward compromise and talks with the Zionist occupiers. The United States is resorting to a policy of the carrot and the stick.

Actually, these pressures are aimed at implementing a strategy of breaking the weaker links in the chain of the Middle East crisis. After Palestine, Jordan is the second and weakest link in the chain of the longstanding Middle East conflict. After breaking the Palestinian link and drawing it to the table of compromise and surrender, efforts have now concentrated on the next link—Jordan. It is because of this that, instead of the bilateral talks on which the Zionist regime is insisting, the talks in which Jordan is participating are tripartite—that is, Jordanian, Israeli, and U.S. This means that if the American player—or actually the American pressure—is eliminated, the natural course of the Middle East crisis will be to deal face-to-face with the occupier.

The other pressure that the Jordanian Government is facing comes from public opinion at home, which basically does not support the compromise talks; hence the Jordanian government's constant efforts to harness public opinion are costing it dearly. The recent cabinet reshuffle in Jordan and the inclusion of several deputies in the cabinet took place within this framework. But the more Jordan moves toward compromise, the more domestic pressures to slow down or to halt these steps increase.

Next to this equation of diametrically opposed pressures, a third factor should be referred to—a factor which is playing a basic role in the outcome and the final impact

of these pressures. This factor is the regional situation, which will ultimately solve the Middle East crisis with a tussel that will go beyond bilateral or tripartite talks with the Zionist regime. In this conflict, the influence of Islam and the Islamists will be so great that neither U.S. nor Israeli pressure will be able to either confront and calm it or to throw it out of the arena.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Families of Bombing Victims

LD1307181194 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The president in a meeting here today with the bereaved families of martyrs of the June 20 bomb blast in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) in Mashhad, said the hypocrites have no hope for the future and have reached their deadend.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the group, that the shedding of innocent blood of pilgrims at the holy shrine on the day of Ashura (martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein) "is evidence of the righteous stand of the Islamic revolution and bestial behaviour of the enemies of the Islamic system and their total frustration"

He said Iranians and the Muslim world will never pardon the "terrorist criminals" who, at one of the holiest Islamic sites, bathed the pilgrims in their blood.

The blood of martyrs has, however, strenghtened the foundations of the Islamic system and made the people especially the new generation aware of the ungodly nature of the terrorists, added the president.

"Those who attained martyrdom on the afternoon of Ashura beside the holy shrine of Imam Reza were fortunate persons," he told the families.

"To separate oneself from the mundane world at a time one is busy with prayers to the Almighty at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) on the afternoon of Ashura (10th of Moharram) is a rare and sacred situation," said the hojjat ol-eslam.

He said the act (by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization) was some sort of taking revenge on the Muslim people of Iran.

In his introductory speech at the meeting head of the Martyrs Foundation of the Islamic Revolution Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian condemned the criminal act saying the bereaved families were firm in their determination to march forward along the sacred aspirations of the Islamic revolution as indicated by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The blast which shocked the civilized world injured 170 mourners at the holy shrine and claimed the lives of 26 others including a 19 year topper in the nationwide university entrance examinations, Seyyed 'Ali Reza Nabavi.

Captured MKO Member Says Group at 'Dead End'

LD1407023694 Tehran IRNA in English 2249 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 13, (IRNA)—Terrorist, Batoul Vaferi, who was caught red-handed with a bomb at the mausoleum of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeini, said here today that she could be considered "a living document of the dead end the organization (Mojahedeen Khalq) [MKO] has run into."

Speaking at a news conference held at her request, the 34-year-old terrorist admitted that she started her collaboration with the grouplet in 1980 by becoming an official member, "and ever since I have worked for the MKO, my latest assignment being the plot to bomb the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini".

Asked about the motive behind the aborted bombing of the mausoleum of the late imam, she said MKO ringleader Masoud Rajavi had given personal instructions in this regard.

Vaferi who is a mother of two daughters, Azer aged 11 and Maryam aged 10, when asked whether she ever gave thought that she would be killing several women, children, young and the old at the shrine, answered that such feelings cease to exist the moment one joins the MKO and accepts its policies.

"Didn't you know that the bomb given to you would have killed you before anyone else?"

"They told me that after planting the bomb and turning it on I would have enough time to get out of the complex and its surroundings and I was assured that I would be immediately taken out of the country. I knew not that it was I who was to be the sacrifice of this bomb planting."

"What, if your own daughter Maryam was inside the mausoleum, would you still have planted the bomb?"

Confusion took grip of the terrorists eyes, and she answered "no".

Questioned on the objective behind planting the bomb, Vaferi disclosed that first and foremost the MKO wanted to lift the sagging morale of its forces inside Iraq.

"Dejection and despondency has taken hold an is causing an acute problem (for MKO leadership). Members have lost all hope in the future. The organization's label has destroyed their lives...

"It is in order to remove this feeling that the MKO leadership planned the bombing operations so as to say, look we are still around."

Another objective, she said, was to make the world believe that Iran was an insecure place, and thereby increase international pressures against economic cooperation with the Islamic republic.

The terrorist also threw light on the murder of the Armenian pastor Tatabous Mikailian by two of her female accomplices.

She said that at 5:30 PM on the day of the murder, "Farahnaz brought Mikailian to the rented home where the three of us were living, and went upstairs with the pastor, while I and Maryam kept the landlord busy in conversation.

"Moments later we heard gunshots and as the disturbed landlord ran upstairs, we ran after him, and at gunpoint told him not to interfere if you value your life. We dragged him into the bathroom and tied him up.

"As for the pastor his body was put inside a freezer."

Asked her reaction on seeing the pastor's body and how did she feel at the murder of an innocent man, Vaferi replied that she raised no objection, as all such feelings were alien to MKO ideology.

Pastor Mehdi Dibaj was also found murdered by the MKO.

On July 5, the day Vaferi was nabbed at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, another lady terrorist was caught at the shrine of Hazrat Ma'soumeh in holy Qom with a 3 kg bomb hidden inside a prayer book.

On june 20, the day of Ashura (Moharram 10 the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husayn), the MKO shocked the civilized world by exploding a bomb at the holy shrine of Imam Reza.

Diplomat Expulsions 'Sad Commentary' on Indo-Pak Ties

LD1407082994 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] New Delhi, July 14, IRNA—Regular expulsion of the members of each other's diplomatic missions by India and Pakistan is a sad commentary on the state of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The two countries signed the agreement of code of conduct on the treatment of diplomats on August 19 1992, beside being the signatories to the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.

Since the coming into effect of the code of conduct, however, 10 Indian and 9 Pakistani diplomats have been expelled, the latest cases are Ernest Alexander Adam of India and Mohammed Afzal Bajwa and Nasiruddin Ahmad of Pakistan. However, the latest cases of expulsion have prompted the two countries to prevent further deterioration of situation. India has offered that the two countries should hold foreign secretary level talks to see that the code is implemented 'both in letter and spirit in future'.

Pakistan has responded quickly, giving its nod to such talks 'at appropriate level and as early as possible'.

Back to expulsion matches, India claims 118 cases of harassment and intimidation of its diplomats and their families. Pakistan also claims that since 1987 13 times its diplomats have been manhandled by the personnel of the Indian security forces. The expulsion drama, which is re-enacted after a brief interval and on a reciprocal basis, is preceded by mistreatment to the members of diplomatic staff.

The nature and conduct of mistreatment varies from aggressive surveillance, pursuit of diplomats in cars and photographing the activities of diplomats in their homes to use of abusive language, detention and manhandling. The provision of the code of conduct agreement stipulates that the two countries agree that diplomats should under no circumstances be threatened with or subjected to physical violence and that police protection should be provided to diplomats or for their property. The code prohibits the two countries from resorting to surveillance, verbal abuse and threatening phone calls.

Diplomats' Families Meet Lebanese Justice Minister

LD1307175194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The families of the four Iranian diplomats kidnapped in Lebanon met the justice minister and the public prosecutor of Lebanon today. According to the Central News Unit from Beirut, the wife of one of the kidnapped diplomats said the Iranian diplomats were the first victims of hostage-taking in Lebanon and that the kidnappers, in a statement, had admitted kidnapping the Iranian diplomats. She called on the justice minister to clarify their situation. The same report adds the Lebanese justice minister spoke about the civil war in Lebanon and promised the families of the Iranian diplomats to follow up the situation and provide clear information on the fate of the hostages.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Foreign Media's 'Smear War'

LD1307173994 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told a group of news service staffers of the Iranian Radio and Television (IRIB) here Wednesday [13 July] that the foreign enemies of Iran had launched a smear war with the Islamic government to suggest its incapacity to administer the affairs of the state.

He said those people do so by magnifying certain insignificant problems in Iran and by refusing to acknowledge the many great post-revolution accomplishments.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic takes pride in having been able to have brought dependence to the least possible level while at the same time having remained loyal to the ideological values of the Islamic Revolution.

He said under the circumstances, the responsible people with the Iranian Radio and Television should feel the burden of the responsibility on their shoulder and offer objective analyses and impartial evaluation of the state of the things at home in the interest of the public and for neutralizing hostile foreign propaganda.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, meanwhile, expressed his satisfaction with the overall post-revolution performance of the Iranian Radio and Television.

Meanwhile in a brief report to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani the director of the IRIB 'Ali Larijani said that the Iranian Radio and Television has 26 local news offices and 400 reporters nationally.

Pakistan

Foreign Office: Indian Torture Claims 'Baseless'

BK1307150794 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Jul 94 pp 1, 18

[Text] Islamabad, July 12—The Foreign Office has described on Tuesday [12 July] the Indian allegation of torturing its official V.S. Chauhan as baseless because his medical examination proved his "fit physical condition", said an FO Press release.

Mr Chauhan was examined by the doctor in the presence of FO and Indian High Commission representatives who confirmed his good physical condition, said the Press release of the FO.

Describing as contrary to facts the version of the Indian High Commission, the Foreign Office said that the Indian official V.S. Chauhan immediate after his arrest, was produced before the magistrate where he confessed his involvement in "espionage and sabotage activities."

Mr Chauhan was apprehended at 10.30 p.m. on Tuesday while receiving a document from a Pakistani agent. He confessed in his statement before the SDM Islamabad, that he was involved in sabotage activities according to a plan devised by the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

Soon after his statement, Mr Chauhan was handed over to the Indian High Commission, it said. The FO said categorically that the apprehension of Chauhan was not related to the apprehension and physical maltreatment of Mohammad Afzal Bajwa, an official of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, earlier in the day.

Pakistan, it said, had not subjected officials of the Indian missions in Pakistan to physical assaults in retaliation against the brutal manhandling of as many as twelve officials of the Pakistan High Commission since 1987 by the Indian intelligence agencies.

It may be recalled that in 1992, Indian authorities had tortured to death two Pakistani nationals visiting India on the fabricated charge of their complicity in terrorism.

Commenting on a Press release issued by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, the spokesman of the Foreign Office replied:

"Reference to the increasing frequency of wanton violations" by Pakistan of the Pakistan-India code of conduct of August 1992, the Press release of the Indian High Commission is factually incorrect. It is evidently aimed at blaming Pakistan for what the Indian authorities themselves have been doing in respect of the personnel of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, and members of their families.

"During the recent past our diplomats and their children have been subjected to constant obtrusive surveillance and sustained harassment.

"A few weeks ago, the two daughters of the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi were subjected to aggressive interrogation at the New Delhi airport. Their personal belongings were physically searched and electronically screened several times even after they had identified themselves.

"As regards the Indian government's proposal for a meeting of the officials of the two countries to review the implementation of the code of conduct, it may be recalled that the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi had pointed out that the Code of Conduct must be implemented in letter and spirit by officials of both countries.

"While we continue to believe that good faith is more effective than meetings, we are not in principle opposed to discussions at the appropriate level on the subject."

Editorial Assails India for Mistreating Diplomats

BK1307155794 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Jul 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan.... Constant Target of Indian Saboteurs"]

[Text] The Pakistani security agencies have unearthed a gang of Research and Analysis Wing [RAW] agents in Islamabad and have arrested its ringleader, who is an Indian diplomat called V.S. Chauhan, while receiving sensitive documents. Raids are being conducted to arrest the other members of this gang, who are involved in acts of terrorism and sabotage in Pakistan. On the other side, to cover up this incident, India subjected a New Delhi-based Pakistani diplomat, Afzal Bajwa, to violence while he was shopping in the market and after taking him to a police station forced him to sign a note of confession. It is one of India's old habits that whenever its agents are

nabbed, especially when they are in the guise of diplomats, then, in retaliation, it subjects the Pakistani diplomats based in its soil to suffering and metes out inhuman treatment. Anyway, it is not possible for India to conceal its abominably evil, terroristic, and subversive schemes through these retaliatory measures. To carry out criminal activities in Pakistan, India has specially pressed the RAW into service, which infiltrates its agents into Pakistan after giving them training in the acts of terrorism and subversion. In Pakistan, there have been mysterious bomb blasts for the past several years; the blood of innocent people is being shed by masked men who resort to shooting in several places; linguistic, ethnic, sectarian and regional prejudices get encouragement in the country; and illegal weapons, especially Kalashnikov rifles, are widely found in the country. Several times, such agents have also been nabbed while trying to enter sensitive places like the Kahuta nuclear power plant. India's reprehensible designs against Pakistan are not obscure to anyone. As an eternal foe, India has been targeting Pakistan with all the means available. However, these days, putting diplomatic etiquette aside, India has been causing death and destruction and has been indulging in acts of destabilization in Pakistan by sheer misuse of diplomatic immunity. In the world, the underground activities of secret agencies are continuing. However, it is difficult to find a parallel in the history of the intelligence system to the manner in which India involves its diplomats also in such activities. Indian intelligence agencies have caused great damage to Pakistan and its people and this process shows no sign of coming to an end. The problem is that so far India has not given Pakistan any sincere recognition. Under these circumstances, the government of Pakistan and our intelligence agencies in particular have added responsibilities. And it is imperative on the part of our secret agencies to display their alertness in protecting the people of Pakistan from the abominable designs of India. It is also the responsibility of our secret agencies to prevent India from following its whims. The United Nations charter provides for the protection of the honor and dignity of diplomats. India, at least, should honor those principles and desist from indulging in unjustified acts on innocent Pakistani diplomats when its agents in the guise of diplomats are nabbed while indulging in their activities. The diplomatic battle should be confined to the limits of diplomatic etiquette. Extending its purview to police stations and indulging in inhuman violence and beatings cannot, in any way, be justified. India, of late, has been trying to test the patience and morale of Pakistan. Pakistan has been exercising restraint. India should desist from escalating tension in the region.

Truce Violations Mar iCO Peace Moves

BK1307141794 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Jul 94 pp 1, 18

[Text] Islamabad, July 12: The Afghan peace talks, currently brokered by OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] Secretary-General Dr Hamid Al-Ghabid, may have run aground due to Monday's [11 July] "serious ceasefire violations" during Dr al-Ghabid's discussions with Mr Rabbani at the presidential palace in Kabul.

"The Secretary-General has expressed disquiet over Monday's serious ceasefire violations," a very piqued spokesman for the Organisation of Islamic Conference told DAWN at arrival here form Kabul on Tuesday noon.

"Contrary to assurances given by Mr Rabbani and Mr Hekmatyar, guaranteeing a safe passage for the OIC delegation, it is most unfortunate that rockets were fired at the venue of peace talks on Monday afternoon," he lamented.

Asked about reports that the OIC delegation had to beat a hasty retreat and was "undiplomatically herded to the main door where waiting jeeps whisked them away from the danger zone as quickly as possible" when the glass windows of the presidential palace got smashed by the shock-waves of Hekmatyar's long range rockets, the OIC spokesman said: "The Secretary-General was calm and serene during the bombardment, and he continued with is discussions." To a question as to why the OIC delegation decided to risk a "sleepless night" by staying on in Kabul despite heavy shelling, the spokesman, who declined to give the exact location of the place where the delegation had spent Monday night, said: "We were in a suburb of Kabul which was relatively calm, and we did not have a sleepless night." Asked if the OIC delegation would again venture out to visit Mr Hekmatyar at his Charasyab base, south of Kabul, on Wednesday, the spokesman gave a peremptory answer, saying, "We have not worked out yet when and how the meeting with Mr Hekmatyar will take place.

"An OIC initiative on peace cannot be accomplished amid the sound of rocketfire," stressed the spokesman, who also told DAWN that Dr Ghabid had also met Prof Sayyaf and Commander Ahmad Shah Masud at the "former's base" on Monday.

Ruling out the possibility of another round of talks with the Rabbani, Sayyaf and Masud troika, inside their Kabul bases, the OIC spokesman said: "We will be meeting their representatives here." During his 48-hour stay in Kabul, Dr al-Ghabid "found great encouragement and support for the OIC peace mission by the three leaders whom he met, which has reinforced his hopes for further intensifying the efforts of OIC to achieve this goal, and he is happy to note that his interlocutors shared the same views," said the spokesman, who was not willing to divulge the contents of Monday's conference between the Afghan leaders and Dr Ghabid.

"Since we still have to meet the other side (Hekmatyar), it would not be fair to disclose the contents," replied the spokesman when asked to comment on Dr Ghabid's "peace formula" to Rabbani.

ICO Secretary General Unable To Meet Hekmatyar

BK1407032494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], met with a delegation of the Supreme Coordination Council of the Eslami-e Enqelab-e Afghanistan yesterday. The meeting took place in Peshawar because the ICO secretary general could not go to Afghanistan to meet Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar due to certain reasons. Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar had asked the Afghan delegation to meet Hamid al-Ghabid and apprise him of the proposals to settle the Afghan issue. According to a joint statement, the Afghan delegation has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the ICO peace efforts in Afghanistan.

Editorial Urges New Foreign Policy Direction

BK1207021194 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 10 Jul 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Directionless Foreign Policy—Where Do We Stand?"]

[Text] It has been reported by THE WASHINGTON POST that India has rejected the proposals given by the United States to Pakistan and India on abandoning the nuclear program on the ground that China should be included. For a long time, it had been the U.S. policy to view the Pakistani and Indian nuclear programs in a regional context and that the two countries should sit down together and find a solution to the issue. Pakistan has always said that its program is in response to the Indian advancement in the nuclear sector and that Pakistan will be ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if India does, too. Having a special relationship during the Reagan administration, we had the privilege that we succeeded in getting our views accepted by the United States. However, U.S. priorities changed after the defeat and disintegration of the Soviet Union and then the United States began developing relations with India being impressed by its secularism, so-called democracy, and potentially vast market. India, too, wanted this after it lost Soviet patronage. India successfully sold the notion that Pakistan is a fundamentalist country with no strong democratic institutions and that the country, which remained a threat to the Soviet Union during the Afghan war, is now interfering in India's internal matters.

It has to be acknowledged that India's diplomatic drive has been successful, and it has pushed Pakistan away from some of its former friends, including the United States. Prior to Narasimha Rao's visit to the United States, an impression was prevalent due to the statements by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Talbott and Robin Raphel [assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs] and even some remarks by President Clinton that differences existed between India and the United States on the Kashmir and nuclear issues and that the Pakistani position might be acceptable to the United States. The present government also launched a propaganda campaign to the effect that Nawaz Sharif had isolated the country and the present government had succeeded in getting its stand accepted by the United States. Talks of quiet diplomacy were also in vogue. However, the fond hope vanished after the Indian prime minister's U.S. visit, because a conformity of views between the United States and India is now visible. The efforts made by President Leghari during his private visit to the United States to do away with the effects of the Indian prime minister's visit also remained unsuccessful. Now THE WASHINGTON POST report also indicates that the U.S. Administration is not willing to deal with any issue with Pakistan and India on the same plane. It prefers instead to see Indian supremacy. It wants to work out an arrangement by granting India and China an equal status. The United States did not accept our assurances on capping the nuclear program and stopping the aid to Kashmiri freedom fighters, or it did not consider these assurances worthy of attention.

Reports are also circulating that after getting its stand on the nuclear issue accepted, India is now trying to convince the United States on the Kashmir issue, too. Hamid Gul, former chief of the Inter Services Intelligence, says that the United States has given India the task of improving the situation in Kashmir within the next three months to make a justification for the Indian stand that Kashmir is an integral part of India. Under the circumstances, it is evident that all fond hopes about the Pakistan-U.S. relations have evaporated, and the United States has accepted India's supremacy as a fact. What remains to be seen is what decision it makes about China and India. It is generally believed that in view of China's stabilizing economic situation, the United States will prefer India so that it can counter China. Now we have to think about what we should do. The United States is not willing to give any concession on the nuclear program issue. We have become isolated from the rest of the world on the Kashmir issue; even our friendly Islamic countries are not willing to support us on it. We cannot deceive ourselves by blaming others for this isolation. We have to accept the fact that our foreign policy has no direction and destination. Our investments in Afghanistan for 12 or 13 years went in vain. Moreover, the present government has greatly dissociated itself from the issue, as if it were an issue concerning a remote region like Latin America.

Our foreign minister went to Russia after the Indian prime minister visited that country in an attempt to negate the effects of his visit, while our internationally favorite prime minister is making trips to Kathmandu and Ireland. This gives an indication of our seriousness on this issue. The enemy is, after all, an old enemy, but we have even failed to maintain our friends. As time passes, our difficulties are also accumulating. Some observers are comparing Narasimha Rao's recent visits to those of Indira Gandhi in 1971 and expressing fears of

a war over Kashmir. If, God forbid, our unsuccessful foreign policy leads to a war, then one can easily guess what will be the fate of this nation, which is internally afflicted by political chaos and economic instability and externally reeling under isolation. Given this situation, our rulers and those in the opposition who are dreaming of ruling the country should themselves determine their responsibility and should find time, leaving their mutual squabbles and disputes aside, and engage in studying the national security issues. India is our traditional enemy, but we appear to be unsuccessful in maintaining our traditional friendships. The hopes we hinged on the United States also appear to be dying. Under such a situation, realism demands that we consider a new strategy to protect our existence and security and not only set a clear-cut direction for our foreign policy but also examine our shortcomings, which have led to this situation.

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